

Academic Standing Committee Meeting
12/4/2023

Meeting Minutes

Present: Lilla Toke (Chair, English), Caterina Almendral (ELA), Allyson Santiago (Registrar), Dionne Miller (Academic Affairs), Ana Mora (Wellness Center), Andrew McFarland (Humanities), Janet Gonzalez (Natural Sciences), Erika Correa (ACE), Alexandra Rojas (Library), Renee Daniels (Admissions), Lakshmi Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar (Math, Engineering, and Computer Science)

Meeting started at 2:30PM.

1. Approval of November 2023 meeting minutes

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes.

2. Academic Forgiveness Policy

The main question raised was whether the policy applies only to officially dismissed students, or also to students who were not formally dismissed but have not been in attendance for the specified timeframe (currently proposed at 3 years). The representative from Registrar clarifies that the policy applies to both of these student populations. There was also debate around the language "have not been in attendance" - whether this should be changed to "not registered" to clarify. The committee decided that the original language of "not in attendance" clearly reflected the intent of the policy. The committee also decided to keep the WU withdrawal grade in the policy since WUs from before the recent change in W policies still impact students' GPA.

3. Update on the Academic Conduct/Integrity Working Group

One committee member who also sits on the Academic Conduct/Integrity Working Group provided a comprehensive update about the group's recent work. The group is focused on the evaluation of processes and procedures around enforcing LaGuardia's academic integrity policy. It identified gaps in the current website prompted plans to create a dedicated webpage for academic integrity, emphasizing the need for clear and accessible information. One proposition is to develop a transparent flowchart outlining steps in the academic integrity violation process. The committee weighed in on the potential need for a LaGuardia-specific academic integrity policy, potential linkages of academic integrity information to educational resources, problems with the current academic integrity violation form and challenges in enforcing mandatory reporting procedures for faculty.

4. Academic Integrity Policy - include language on AI

The committee discussed the ambiguity surrounding the exact language of LaGuardia's academic integrity policies, with multiple documents featuring different language on the matter. Some discrepancies were noted between the abbreviated version in the catalog, a longer version in the library, and another version found in the student handbook. The committee emphasized the need for clarification on the official policy, considering potential revisions or additions. The focus then shifted to the integration of language on AI into the academic integrity policy. Reference

was made to UFC-approved recommendations on AI, proposing modifications to the existing policy. However, decisions on the course of action were postponed until there's clarity on LaGuardia's official policy. The suggestion was made to collaborate closely with the Academic Conduct/Integrity Working Group, potentially waiting for their proposal. The importance of unifying and clearly communicating the policy across the college was highlighted.

5. New Business

The committee discussed the Academic Probation policy. A point of concern was the timing misalignment between academic standing calculations and student registrations, leading to challenges such as delayed dismissals and potential setbacks in students' academic progress. To address these issues, participants explored possible solutions, including placing holds on students during extended probation to prevent registration until their academic standing is determined. The committee recognized the necessity of collaborating with the registrar's office to assess the feasibility of modifying the policy and stressed the importance of aligning policy language with any proposed changes in the catalog. The committee decided to liaison with the registrar's office for assessment and follow up with further discussion.

6. Taking on chair duties while chair is on sabbatical (Spring 2024).

With current chair going on sabbatical in Spring 2024, the committee discussed ensuring a faculty member is appointed to take on chair duties during that time. The possibility of rotation was raised. The chair clarified that the interim chair should be a tenured faculty member.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lilla Toke