

15 July 2010

From: Todd D. Sikora, Chairperson, Academic Standards Committee

To: Ana Borger-Greco, Chairperson, Faculty Senate

Re: Annual Report of Academic Standards Committee for Academic Year 2009-2010

1. The Academic Standards Committee (ASC) held all-day dismissal appeal hearings on 13-14 January 2010 and 9-10 June 2010. Results of the hearings are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1. Dismissal Appeal Hearing Statistics**

	<b>January 2010 Dismissal Appeal Hearings</b>				
	<b>Dismissed</b>	<b>Appealed</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>% of Dismissals Appealed</b>	<b>% of Appeals Approved</b>
<b>1st Dismissal</b>	92	41(3)	25(1)	44	61(33)
<b>2nd Dismissal</b>	31	14(0)	7(N/A)	45	50(N/A)
<b>3rd Dismissal</b>	8	5(1)	2(0)	62	40(0)
<b>Total</b>	131	60(4)	34(1)	46	57(25)

	<b>June 2010 Dismissal Appeal Hearings</b>				
	<b>Dismissed</b>	<b>Appealed</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>% of Dismissals Appealed</b>	<b>% of Appeals Approved</b>
<b>1st Dismissal</b>	118	52(11)	24(1)	44	46(9)
<b>2nd Dismissal</b>	28	10(2)	4(1)	36	40(50)
<b>3rd Dismissal</b>	12	4(0)	2(N/A)	33	50(N/A)
<b>Total</b>	158	66(13)	30(2)	42	45(15)

Non-parenthetic data represent the total number of cases. Parenthetic data represent the portion of total cases that were resolved via letter only as opposed to by a letter and in-person hearing. One January first dismissal appeal and two January second dismissal appeals, denied by the ASC, were subsequently approved by the Associate Provost for Academic Administration. Three first dismissal letter-only appeals were received after the June hearings but before the 30 June deadline for late appeals. They were handled by a special subcommittee of the ASC.

2. ASC subcommittees considered six eligible petitions for academic amnesty during the January 2010 hearings, all of which were approved.

3. During the Spring 2010 semester, an ASC subcommittee recommended the readmission of a person who served a three-year dismissal period and also approved one academic amnesty petition.

4. ASC subcommittees considered three eligible petitions for academic amnesty during the June 2010 hearings, all of which were approved.

5. The ASC completed its work on revising *Governance Manual, Academic Policy: Undergraduate Studies ACADEMIC STANDARDS, PROBATION, and DISMISSAL, Appeals*. (See the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Annual Reports for background.) The revised policy was approved by Faculty Senate and Deans Council during the 2009-2010 academic year and will be implemented effective the Fall 2010 semester. Rationale for major revisions follow:

a. Currently, students who are dismissed but are awaiting an appeal can attend classes (Winter and Summer 1 sessions), mainly because the registration for such coursework occurs before a student is dismissed. Thus, language was changed in the revised policy to reflect that practice.

b. The Registrar's Office staff handles the logistics of the dismissal appeal hearings. In-person appeals during the January hearings can be quite problematic for the Registrar's Office. This is because of the brief time allotted to winter break under the common calendar. At the request of the Registrar's Office, the ASC considered potential solutions to that problem. The ASC reached consensus on the following language which appears in the revised policy:

“Students who are dismissed for the first time have the option to appeal in person before a subcommittee of the ASC, in addition to submitting the required written appeal. Students who are dismissed for the second or greater time may only appeal in writing.”

Note that the changes are for both the January and June hearings for the sake of continuity. Using the statistics from the last three dismissal appeal hearings, the revised policy would reduce the number of in-person appeals by about 20 to 30 percent.

c. When considering appeals in the recent past, both the subcommittees and the Chairpersons of the ASC have granted lesser dismissal periods than those prescribed within the original policy. The ASC stopped following that practice beginning with the June 2008 hearings with the goal of preserving continuity and consistency in the decisions of the ASC from subcommittee to subcommittee and from year to year. The following corresponding language was inserted into the revised policy:

“Under no circumstances will the Chairperson or subcommittee of the ASC modify the duration of a dismissal period prescribed herein.”

d. A precedent recorded in the 2001-2002 ASC Annual Report allows for an appellant who believes he/she did not receive an appropriate or fair hearing from a subcommittee to appeal the decision to the Chairperson. The stated rationale is to reduce the number of students employing the University's general appeal process.

The ASC stopped following that practice beginning with the June 2008 hearings with the goal of preserving continuity and consistency in the decisions of the ASC from year to year. Instead, the Chairperson has directed all further appeals to the Associate Provost for Academic Administration. The following corresponding language was developed in consultation with the Associate Provost for Academic Administration and was inserted into the revised policy:

“After the ASC’s decision, if an appellant believes the appeal process was not administered as prescribed herein, the appellant may pursue an appeal of the process, but not the academic decision, in writing, to the Associate Provost for Academic Administration. Such an appeal must be made within ten business days from the date of the decision letter from the Chairperson of the ASC. The appellant is advised to provide as much written documentation as possible, describing why the process was not administered as prescribed herein, and any supporting materials. The decision of the Associate Provost for Academic Administration regarding the process appeal is final and not subject to further review.”

Sincerely,

Associate Professor Todd D. Sikora  
ASC Chairperson

cc: Associate Provost for Academic Administration  
Registrar