

## **Academic Standing Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting on February 23rd, 2021**

Present: Alexandra Rojas (Chair), Lee Boyar (Business and Technology), Caterina Almendral (ELA), Lilla Tóke (English), Janet Gonzalez (Natural Sciences), LaVora Desvigne (Admissions), Kyle Hollar-Gregory (Social Science), Amish Khalfan (Academic Affairs), Andrew McFarland (Humanities), Louise Butironi (Counselling), Glenn Henshaw (MEC), Derwent Dawkins (Registrar), Shayla Pruitt (Associate Director of Campus Life and SGA Mentor), Justin Rodriguez (Chair of the Senate Committee of Students), Annette Gonzalez (SGA Academic Rep & Governor of Political Awareness), Christie Laurent (SGA VP, designated voter for SGA)

#### **The meeting started at 2:35pm via Zoom and ended at 4:15pm**

1. Members of ASC introduced themselves to the three Student Government Association (SGA) representatives
2. Background: CUNY central gave the option to colleges to continue with the credit no credit (CR/NC) option that started in Spring 2020 to continue/adopt for Fall I & Fall II 2020. This policy guaranteed students that CUNY will, for courses taken in Spring 2020 only, honor and transfer in binary grades (no letter grade) for all courses that would normally transfer, without negative impact on admission, transfer credit, or degree requirements.
3. This policy has expired. CUNY colleges are no longer required to accept the CR credits upon transfer. ASC inspected the issue of a pass no credit (CR/NC) option and with input from the academic Chairs and ASC decided to take no action on the CR/NC policy.
4. In response the College Senate and President K. Adams asked ASC to consider a stand-alone temporary NR policy for Spring I 2021 with SGA participation on this vote.
5. SGA representatives stated that the student body wanted to secure a NC policy to protect students with a failing grade from losing their financial aid.
6. The issue of satisfactory academic progress (SAP) was brought up because financial aid is determined as a function of SAP.
7. The LaGCC has established guidelines to promote timely completion of educational programs which is applied to all matriculating students. There are 3 components to SAP, minimum GPA, maximum time frame, and pace of progression. Students must complete 67% of the total cumulative credits attempted. WU, WD and W are considered non grades and are counted as attempted credits. Once a year at the end of Spring the academic record will be measured against the 3 criteria to determine SAP for continued Federal and State Financial Aid

## Pace of Progression Chart

Credits Attempted	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90
Credits Earned	0	2	4	6	13	19	23	27	33	39	44	49	55	61

8. A point was brought up that since NC would count as an F this would not help the financial aid situation for students. Upon further inspection the argument that NC provides protection against losing financial aid was upheld because the NC credits are not calculated in the GPA, and GPA is one of the criteria for SAP.

9. It was shown that the NC policy can help students maintain their SAP while an F will hurt the student's SAP.

10. The Committee agreed that disseminating information to the student body about the NC policy regarding its ramifications is important. For example, the credits from NC will be summed into the credits attempted purely from the CUNYfirst system point of view. Therefore, the financial aid advisors and students will have to be aware to tease these credits out of their calculations regarding financial aid.

11. Committee members emphasized that a robust information campaign must be undertaken to inform the student body, financial aid advisors and academic advisors and Chairs about all the details of this policy.

12. Preliminary data suggest a correlation between students using the CR/NC policy and retention rates besides direct evidence from students claiming that not enacting a NC will harm some students.

### Motion to Vote

13. Motion was made to vote on a temporary policy for the stand-alone NC option to be implemented during Spring I 2021 semester.

14. 13 voted "yes" on the motion. All members present including the Student SGA representative.

### Actions

15. The committee agreed to revise the BMCC template for our NR policy via google doc and email and ready a policy to present to the Senate for their next meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2021

16. The committee agreed to recruit SGA student for the ASC committee

### SGA Input for new NC policy

17. SGA is advocating for a temporary NC policy as a safety net for students receiving a failing grade during the pandemic

18. Students with up to two NC already in their transcripts will be grandfathered in and not be able to use this option

19. SGA is considering a cap of one NR per transcript with this option available to all students
20. The template under consideration is the BMCC's NC policy
21. Will NC count as F or W (BMCC equates NC to F)
22. SGA is researching the BMCC NC policy in terms of transferring credits within and outside CUNY

### **Chair Election**

Janet Gonzalez was nominated for Chair. No further nominations were received for the position. The nomination was seconded. Janet Gonzalez was elected Chair via acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Gonzalez