INTRODUCTION:
On January 24, 2014, the Faculty Committee on Academic Standards considered a proposal from Dr. Shao, Dean of the School of Business, to eliminate a set of admission standards adopted in 2006. The effect of this proposal would be to reverse the 2006 change by reverting to the pre-2006 standards.

Dr. Shao presented the case in detail with this summary:
“Over the past two years the School of Business Committee on Program Excellence has been working on several alternative proposals to remedy the pre-declared major issue as well as the unenforceable components of the School’s current admission policy. The proposals were discussed throughout the fall semester within each department and were brought forward to the School’s December 10th Faculty Meeting. At the end of the meeting, after an extensive discussion by many faculty representing all of the departments the following motion was made and a large majority supported it.”

He then reported the referred-to motion from the School of Business:
“The School of Business faculty voted to eliminate the existing admission standards of requiring a grade of “C-” or better in ACCT 203, ACCT 204, DSCI 232, ECON 200, ECON 201, MATH 104/250, MATH 105/120. The pre-declared major status is to be eliminated allowing any student to declare a School of Business major whenever they choose.”

The members of the Committee on Academic Standards voted unanimously (all seven members) to approve this request and to forward it in the form of a motion to the Faculty Senate.

MOTION:
The School of Business Admission Standards shall revert to their state prior to the change approved at the 28 February 2006 Faculty Senate Meeting. In particular, the Standards will no longer require a grade of “C-” or better in ACCT 203, ACCT 204, DSCI 232, ECON 200, ECON 201, MATH 104/250, MATH 105/120. Also, the Standards will eliminate the pre-declared major status with the intent of allowing any student to declare a School of Business major whenever they choose.

RATIONALE:
(Supplied by Dr. Shao as a summary of the School of Business faculty meeting)
1) The faculty stated that the options of a major requirement (“C-” in the seven quantitative pre-requisite courses) was not acceptable because in
spite of a process to advise and counsel students who did not earn the required “C-” grade in these courses, the students could progress to senior level and have their graduation delayed.

2) Embedding the “C-” in the seven admission courses as pre-requisites into gate-keeper courses of FINC 303, DSCI 304 and capstone courses created additional problems for some of the School’s minor programs and all of the courses were not true “pre-requisites”.

3) The argument was also made that all of the courses are quantitative in nature. We have excellent students who excel in the non-quantitative business courses whose transcripts suffer because of having to retake these courses. Some of the business disciplines did not want to lose these good students because of admission standards that were weighted so heavily toward quantitative skills. The point was also made that many of the successful business leaders supporting our programs probably would not have gained admission to the school. There is no empirical evidence that passing these specific quantitative courses is an indicator of successful completion of a business major.

4) The faculty believes that continuous improvement of their programs to provide the quality and rigor necessary for AACSB and SACS accreditation resides in the department. This can be better accomplished without separate School of Business admission standards. Departments may be moving forward with individual major quality enhancement measures embedded in the courses of their respective programs. The College of Charleston admission process has noticeably increased student quality over the past few years so additional standards are not needed.

5) The original admission standards were implemented because business courses were over-subscribed and faculty resources were scarce. It was hoped that the implementation of the standards would reduce the number of students in the business program. The data shows that the opposite occurred. Prior to the implementation of the standards (2006/07) the average number of graduates from 2000-2007 was 418 for the School. From 2007/08 to 2012/13 the average number of graduates was 560. There is also the issue of students not making the required “C-” in the courses having to retake the course. This creates a bottleneck in courses like DSCI 232 because of students who have previously passed the course taking up a seat that a new student needs.

6) The question of grade inflation was brought up because of students earning a D or D+ in these courses contacting/begging faculty to give them the required C- so they would not fall behind in degree progression.
7) Pre-declared designation is not an official major declaration which is confusing to students. Students must declare an official major once they successfully complete their admission courses with a “C-” or better. This has become a graduation issue because of the high number of last minute declarations needing to be processed for graduation applications. Additionally, students are running into difficulty with unofficial transcripts needed for scholarships, study-abroad or employment applications when they have not declared an official major once admission standards have been completed. The unofficial transcripts show the pre-declared major as an undecided major. Again, it takes 7-10 days to process the declaration.

8) The SB admission standards have put an additional burden on the Registrar’s Office and AAPC staff because of the additional hours required to continually modify the Banner System and advising protocols.