TO: Dr. Robert Mignon, Speaker of the Faculty

FROM: Amy Thompson McCandless, Chair
Faculty Committee on Academic Standards

RE: Report for 1997-98 Academic Year

April 28, 1998

The Academic Standards Committee met every Monday at high noon between August 20, 1997, and April 27, 1998. Committee members were Von Bakanic, Sociology; Elizabeth Martinez, Spanish; Amy McCandless (chair), History; Deborah Miller, Health and Physical Education; Brian Scholtens, Biology; Michael Skinner, EDFS; Susan Simonian (secretary), Psychology. The Committee business consisted of:

1) Appeals for Exceptions from College Policies
   a) Fifteen students petitioned to take more than 7 of their last 37 hours outside the College of Charleston. Fourteen petitions were granted.
   b) Three students petitioned for retroactive withdrawals from courses for medical reasons. One petition was granted.
   c) Three student petitioned to have courses not on the current list count for a SNAP alternative. Two petitions were granted.
   d) Two students petitioned to have their grades from their spring semester 1997 at Nene College in Northampton, England, transferred to the College. The petitions were granted.
   e) Committee voted to allow the Dean of Undergraduate Studies to approve student petitions to exceed "7 of the last 37 hours" policy for students participating in external, pre-approved study "abroad" programs (e.g., Bilateral Agreement, International Student Exchange, National Student Exchange). The Dean would be allowed to approve up to the number of course hours which represent a full course load for the exchange.
   f) Student requested to be granted the three-year transfer option although she had returned to classes after only two and a half years. The petition was denied.
g) Student with six-credit hours in music petitioned to have SPAN 390: Music Appreciation in Spanish count toward the humanities general education requirement as well. The petition was denied.

h) Student petitioned to have both a BS and an AB listed on her transcript. The Committee approved the request, noting that two diplomas would have to be awarded given the special nature of the A.B. degree.

i) Student petitioned to have two courses in American Sign Language accepted as transfer elective credits. The petition was approved.

j) Student petitioned to have a NSE course dropped without a W on her record. The Director was overseas and her request could not be processed within the appropriate time frame. The petition was approved.

2) Clarification and Changes in College Policies
   a) Committee discussed and presented to the Senate a change in appeal process in the "Policy and Procedures for Accommodating Students with Learning Disabilities." The change was approved at the September meeting of the Senate.

   b) Committee wrote a memorandum to Academic Computing asking them to correct an existing problem in the calculation of GPAs for students who repeat courses.

   c) Committee discussed and presented to the Senate a change regarding the senior citizens' admission program which extended the time period for audit enrollment by senior citizens to two weeks. The proposal was passed at the November Senate meeting.

   d) Committee discussed a proposal for a pilot Spanish 101 class for SNAP students which would include a multi-sensory presentation of course material. The Committee decided to delay its recommendations until the pilot program was underway.

   e) Committee discussed and presented to the Senate a change in the Math/logic alternatives for SNAP students. FINC 120 (Personal Finance) was approved at the November Senate meeting and added to the list of acceptable alternatives.

   f) Committee discussed with the Registrar problems in entering course credits for exchange students involved in the program with Nene College in England. The students are supposed to receive 5 credits per course, but at the moment there is no way to enter into the computer 5 credits for a course. Mr. Anderson promised to look into this problem.

   g) Committee discussed the extent to which it was appropriate to count performance classes in music toward the degree. The Committee was concerned about the impact of large number of professional/vocational courses on the liberal arts curriculum but concluded that this was an issue for the Curriculum Committee.

   h) Committee discussed and presented to the Senate a change in the default policy for repeated courses. Grades for repeated courses will be averaged unless specifically requested by the student during registration. The measure was approved at the February Senate meeting.
i) Committee discussed the difference between honors courses in a single subject and interdisciplinary honors courses in humanities with the Director of the Honors Program. The Committee was told that classes receiving interdisciplinary credit were designated as such by the Honors Committee after reviewing course syllabi.

j) Committee discussed the problem of large numbers of SNAP students in upper-level courses in the humanities and social sciences. The Director of Student Services recommended putting a cap (e.g., 10 students) on the course for priority registration. Priority registration is when almost all SNAP students, along with Honors students and athletes, register.

k) Committee discussed and presented to the Senate a proposal that the current Probation II, Early Warning standards be the only probation standard. The measure was passed at the March Senate meeting.

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