Faculty Committee on Academic Standards, Admissions, & Financial Aid
2017-18 Annual Report

Committee Members:
Von Bakanic, Deborah Boyle, Christine Byrum, Quinn Burke (chair), LaTasha Chaffin, Jesse Keeffe/ Madelyn Middleton (student representative), Bob Migneone, Ricard Vinas-de-Puig, Michelle Futrell (ex-officio), Shannon McKenzie (ex-officio)

Management:
The Faculty Committee for Academic Standards, Admission, & Financial Aid (FCAS) continued to disseminate student petitions via OAKS as a centralized, secure, and efficient system that eliminates the use of email (or printed copies) for handling confidential student information. Shannon McKenzie and Michelle Futrell of the office of Undergraduate Academic Services continue to be indefatigable with their helpful organization and management of content at OAKS. The 2017-18 FCAS Committee truly appreciates their diligence as the academic “front line” working with students regarding their petitions.

2017-18 Highlights:
In addition to the review of student petitions for late withdrawal, FCAS undertook five other responsibilities this year at the request of Academic Affairs:

- Revision/ presentation of a College-wide grade redemption policy
- Revision of the College-wide course repetition policy
- Committee review (and approval) of the 2006 College implementation of plus/ minus grades
- Honor Code Revision

Further details of each of these items are noted in the highlights below; for full information, please see compiled notes

Total Petition Statistics: (up to 6/12/18)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Late Withdrawal Petitions</th>
<th>Senior Coursework Elsewhere Petitions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>51 total</strong></td>
<td><strong>23 total</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved - <strong>36</strong></td>
<td>Approved - <strong>17</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denied - <strong>15</strong></td>
<td>Denied - <strong>6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forwarded to 2016-2017 committee - <strong>6 in que</strong></td>
<td>Forwarded to 2015-2016 committee - <strong>1 in que</strong></td>
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Key Items from Minutes (see compiled 2017-18 minutes for full details):

6.Sept.2017:
FCAS met for the first time over the 2017-18 year and Chair Burke reviewed the “Rules of the Road” document drawn up/ revised over prior years. There was a review of using OAKS to review undergraduate petitions, standards/ protocol for accepting and denying student late withdrawal petitions, and standards/ protocol for accepting and denying senior coursework elsewhere petitions. Through a review of a sample petition, it was pointed out that the Committee seldom grants selective withdrawal from courses unless a strong case is made for that one course. The committee seldom accepts financial arguments for senior coursework elsewhere beyond the limit of hours allowed. The committee is reluctant to grant late withdrawal petitions for two successive semesters. The committee is reluctant to grant late withdrawal petitions based on work/school conflicts. Finally, the Committee is reluctant to grant late withdrawal petitions based on medical attention/ treatment after the term has already ended. The definition of a “super-majority” is a total of 6 votes (with an undergraduate’s representation in FCAS this year), but is 5 if no undergraduate will be present over the academic year.

Associate Provost Lynn Cherry joined FCAS at their initial meeting. She explained the institution of a “+/-” grading scale back in 2006 and the current Board’s request FCAS make a review of whether this has inadvertently affected undergraduate grade point averages.

The Committee reviewed Late Withdrawal petitions.

The Committee discussed the potential Grade Redemption Policy, as well as concerns over CofC’s Minor Residency requirement (brought to FCAS from Dr. Doug Friedman).

20.Sep.2017:
College-Wide Transfer Policy:
Jimmie Foster, Jr.,Vice-President for Enrollment Planning, was a visitor, and he presented on a College-Wide Academic Transfer Policy. Foster explained that according to the College’s current transfer policy, the College will not admit any student applying to the College who is not permitted, for either academic or disciplinary reasons, to return to their current institution. For example, the College will not consider applications from students expelled from military or religious institutions for violations for which the College of Charleston would not expel a student.

Foster presented a proposal to change the policy’s language to allow students with disciplinary violations at their previous institutions to apply to the College; the Application Safety Association Committee (ASAC)—which is chaired by Foster and the Dean of Students and whose members include the College Chief of Police, the Faculty Senate Speaker, and the College’s legal counsel—could then hear the student’s case and make a determination regarding whether the student may apply for admission. He gave the example of a student with one strike at his/her current institution for marijuana possession, who, under the current policy, would not be allowed to apply to the College. This policy change would apply only to students with institutional disciplinary actions, not misdemeanors (unless those resulted in an institutional disciplinary action).

Vote on 10/04/2017 (next meeting): After further review and discussion, there was a unanimous (6-0) vote to approve the changes to the college-wide transfer policy with the minor change to language that Deborah Boyle had suggested. Mr. Foster accepted and it went to Senate in November.

Cross-listed Courses and the “No Repeat” Policy
Mignone introduced a request from the Math Department to FCAS to make a recommendation to
the Faculty Senate for a change in the course numbering policy. Some 400- and 500-level courses with the same content are offered concurrently, but, in accordance with SACS requirements, have different performance expectations, different assessments, and different syllabi for students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Current College policy is that students who take a course at the 400-level may not repeat that course at the 500-level for credit. However, Mignone explained, that policy poses a problem for graduate students at the College who were previously undergraduates here -- although not for graduate students who took a similar course as undergraduates at a different institution. Students who completed a College of Charleston 400-level course (even decades ago) and apply to attend a College graduate program that requires the same course at the 500-level would not be permitted to take that course for credit, whereas students transferring in to the same graduate program who took the equivalent 400-level course (no matter when) would be allowed to take the 500-level for credit here. This has the effect that the Math department cannot admit its own students to Math graduate programs.

04.Oct.2017:

“+/−” Grading Policy (2006) & Whether It has Hurt Undergraduate GPA

Burke reported the results of the first academic (not personal) grievance panel and informed FCAS that a second student academic grievance had come in. Three names were again randomly chosen, and the new grievance panel would review the case independently. Burke reported that Honors College Committee Chair Phyllis Jestice has sent a proposal from that committee to add two items to the definition of “good standing” for first-, second-, and third-year students in the Honors College: (1) No Class I or Class II Honor Code violations, and (2) No conduct violation that has resulted in the sanction of suspension or expulsion. A motion to recommend approving the new language for “good standing” in the Honors College was unanimously approved. Burke will present FCAS' decision and the additional language to the Senate at their November 2016 meeting. Chair Burke then explained the second proposed change: the Faculty Curriculum Committee is reviewing a proposal for an Internship in Biology (BIOL 381) that would be Pass/Fail and repeatable up to 6 credit hours. However, Burke pointed out, Pass/Fail courses are typically not allowed for the major (or minor). Discussion ensued. Burke suggested that the committee should deny the BIOL 381 proposal now, because the current catalog wording (“taken in the major”) is too ambiguous to allow Biology students to take BIOL 381 as Pass/Fail. Burke reported that the committee’s two options for the major GPA were presented to the Faculty Senate at the October 11 meeting and that there was some pushback regarding the language of Option #1. He asked the committee to vote on whether we preferred Option #2 (to have no major GPA), or preferred the intent of Option #1 (to keep the major GPA based on courses that are “applicable” to the major), with exact wording for Option #1 to be worked out in consultation with Senators. A motion to recommend keeping the major GPAs, and to offer the Senate alternative language for Option #1, was unanimously approved.

Minor Residency Policy

Doug Friedman, Chair of the International Studies program, joined the meeting. He requested that FCAS reconsider the number of courses its requires (especially 200 level) students need to take on campus for the completion of a minor. He reports that students interested in pursuing a minor and studying abroad have a difficult time doing so. FCAS will review his amended policy for students who study abroad.

Vote on 10/18/2017 (next meeting): After further review and discussion, there was a unanimous (0-6) vote to deny the changes Dr. Friedman proposed at it offered far too little guidance/
considerable leniency in allowing too wide a range of courses taken as external institutions to count toward the minor.

30.Jan.2018:
Review and voting on relevant Late Withdrawal petitions and Senior Coursework Elsewhere petitions.

03.Apr.2018:
The Committee reviewed and voted on relevant Late Withdrawal petitions and 2 Senior Coursework Elsewhere petitions. FCAS also reviewed proposed changes (greater nuance) in the severity of Honor Code Violation penalties. Guests Dr. Allison E. Sterrett-Krause and Dean Cabot presented such changes to College Honor Code Policy, though the final vote (for Senate review) will have to occur for the 2018-19 FCAS Committee. The new FCAS chair will then present to Senate.

17.Apr.2018:
Review and voting on relevant Late Withdrawal petitions and Senior Coursework Elsewhere petitions.

Acknowledgments:
The committee thanks the office of Undergraduate Academic Services for their assistance during this year.

On behalf of the committee,
Quinn Burke
June 11th, 2018