

Academic Standing and Honors Committee

1971-72 Annual Report

The Academic Standing and Honors Committee for the 1971-72 academic year was composed of the following members:

Clifford Harding, Chairman

**James Davis
Peter Evarts
Virginia Schuldenberg
Robert Powell
James R. Appleton
Manuel H. Pierson, Ex-Officio**

Assisting Dean Pierson in the administration of academic standing and honors were: George A. Jackson, Director of Special Programs; Mondine McNeil, Administrative Assistant for Student Services' Records and Judith E. Keegan, Assistant Dean for Student Services.

The committee's charge was:

To review, propose, and implement policies concerning academic probation, separation, and readmission; to present to the Senate the Registrar's list of candidates for graduation with any recommendation for deletions or additions to the list; and to review and transmit to the Senate nominees for University and Departmental Honors.

A brief summary of the committee's activities for the 1971-72 academic year follows.

A Summary of Actions Taken by the
Academic Standing and Honors Committee
for 1971-72

<u>ACADEMIC STANDING ACTION</u>	<u>FALL 1971</u>	<u>WINTER 1972</u>	<u>SPRING/SUMMER 1972</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Placed on Probation P-I	182	54	5	241
Cont'd. on Probation P-II	33	73	8	114
Liabile for Dismissal on Point System GR	13	15	5	33
Liabile for Dismissal on N Grade Policy GRN	52	84	16	152
Dismissed on Point System D	7	4	0	11
Dismissed on N Grade Policy DN	13	21	4	38
Dismissal Option Program on Point System DOP	7	8	1	16
Dismissal Option Program on N Grade Policy DOPN	<u>11</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>78</u>
	<u>318</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>683</u>
Warning Letters re: N Grades WN	<u>237</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>464</u>
	<u>555</u>	<u>479</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>1147</u>
<u>HONORS</u>				
			June/August	
Departmental (not including schools)	52	133	41	226
University Honors (including schools)	29	62	23	114
A decision was made to change the method of presenting honors to the Senate for approval. In the future, the Committee will report grade point averages without names for University Honors.				
<u>READMISSIONS</u>	238	214	86/42=128	580

Dismissal Option Program (DOP)

The delayed beginning of the 1971-72 academic year affected the committee's actions against the students who were in violation of the probation policy. Normally, decisions would have been made between the Fall and Winter Semesters, thus permitting the notification of students of their probationary status prior to registration for the 1972 Winter Semester. However, because the academic year did not start just after Labor Day, the committee could not take probationary actions until February, several weeks after registration for the 1972 Winter Semester. As a result, the committee created the DOP category, thereby permitting those students already enrolled to continue in their classes under the supervision of the Dean for Student Services. A counseling and supportive program was structured for nineteen (19) students eligible for dismissal who had enrolled for the Winter Semester.

Program Summary for DOP Category

- Description: The dean for Student Services interviewed each of the nineteen (19) students who were eligible for dismissal, but who were allowed to continue for the semester with some support structures. Seventeen (17) of the nineteen students interviewed accepted an invitation to participate in a weekly one and one-half (1½) hour group counseling program. The program was ten (10) weeks in length, conducted by the Dean for Student Services in three groups with a minimum of five students in each group. The sessions were designed to provide an analysis of institutional policies, advising structures, improved self-concept (ego-boosters) and study skill development information. In addition to the group sessions, individual sessions were scheduled as needed. The announced purposes of the group were to:

1. improve G.P.A.,
2. eliminate "N" grades, and
3. improve class attendance.

- The Results: Fifteen of the seventeen students completed the semester without accumulating "N" grades and with cumulative G.P.A.'s of two points and above. Their classroom attendance improved. Two students did not show any improvement at all in either G P.A., accumulation of "N" grades, or class attendance. The most outstanding success was with a young lady who, in four semesters, had never completed the semester with all of the classes in which she had registered. During the 1972 Winter Semester, the young lady registered for four classes (16 credits) and completed them with a 3.3 cumulative G.P.A. for the semester. A second student, for the first time in eight semesters (this student was a male senior), went to the offices of his instructors to discuss some problems he was encountering with the classwork, resulting in a successful semester for him.

- Recommendations: As a result of the success achieved by the Dean for Student Services in the pilot program, aggressive follow-up to every grave reservation and dismissal option decision of the Academic Standing and Honors Committee is assured. (See attached Student Services objective for the Academic Probation).

Problems and Concerns

- Too much time is used in getting the departmental honors. Often several telephone calls must be made to the academic departments to secure departmental nominees. This practice will be discontinued.

- The "N" policy accounts for about eighty (80) percent of students on probation. There is a need to communicate with instructors at the beginning of the 1973 Winter Semester to solicit their assistance in explaining policy to students. Students should be aware of the penalty for accumulating "N" grades.
- There has been an unusually long delay in obtaining certified graduation lists to make recommendations to the Senate of students to receive University Honors.
- The "N" policy has become cumbersome clerically, with many possibilities for error. It is anticipated that the policy will be computerized in time for the 1972 Fall Semester probationary action.

Recommendations

- A sub-committee on readmissions should be established to review applications and interview unusually difficult cases where necessary.
(Approved at the committee's October meeting).
- The committee should meet during the summer to recommend University Honors for the June graduates and to take probationary action against students enrolled in the Spring and/or Summer sessions where necessary. This should be done prior to the start of the Fall Semester classes.
- The committee should take action on students eligible for dismissal prior to the start of the new semester. Students dismissed can then be notified prior to the beginning of classes.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Objective

To design and implement by September 15, a program to reduce the number of students dismissed for academic reasons.

Problem

The Academic Standing and Honors Committee reviews, at the end of each semester, the record of students whose GPA is below 2.00 or students who receive a large number of "N" grades. The work of the committee ends with a letter of warning to students. Student Affairs personnel have counseled with probationary students but not with a systematic plan of action. As a result, the student's academic problems often continue and dismissal results.

At the end of the 1971 Fall Semester, the Dean for Student Services conducted a pilot group counseling program for 19 students eligible for dismissal, but who were placed in a Dismissal Option Program (DOP) for the Winter Semester instead. Seventeen of the 19 students volunteered to participate in the program. The results were encouraging. The pilot program will be expanded in the 1972 Fall Semester to include the Assistant Dean for Student Services and the Director of Special Programs.

Plan

1. In addition to a letter from the Dean for Student Services, each freshman student placed on Probation I and II will be instructed to have an interview with his or her freshman year counselor. Following the interview, a written report will be placed in the student's master file detailing the problem and a plan of action. This program will become effective January 1, 1973.
2. Upperclass Probation II students and those receiving "N" warning letters from the Dean will be invited in to see a specific counselor on the staff of Student Services with a written report filed in the student's master folder detailing the problem and a plan of action. This program will become effective January 1, 1973.
3. Students placed in the grade reservation category because of "N" grades will, in their letter from the Dean, be asked to see George A. Jackson, Director of Special Programs (assuming these are not freshmen) for a counseling program which may extend through the entire semester in either or both individual and group counseling sessions. A detailed written report will be filed in the student's master folder outlining the problem and a plan of action. This program will become effective January 1, 1973.
4. Students placed in the grade reservation category because of GPA (assuming these are not freshmen) will, in their letter from the Dean, be asked to see Joan Barnard, Director of Upperclass Advising, for a counseling program which may extend through the entire semester in either or both individual and group counseling sessions. A detailed written report will be filed in the student's master folder detailing the problem and a plan of action. This program will become effective January 1, 1973.

5. Students who are eligible for dismissal, but who are placed in the DOP category after an interview with the Dean will participate in a group counseling program that is achievement oriented. Each student will participate in weekly group counseling sessions conducted by either or both, the Assistant Dean and the Dean for Student Services. Individual counseling sessions will be scheduled as needed. Detailed written reports will be filed in the student's master folder, outlining the problem and a plan of action. Recommendations will be made to the Academic Standing and Honors Committee regarding student's status for the next semester. This program will become effective January 1, 1973.

6. Students who receive letters of dismissal from the Dean will be asked to see the Director of Career Advising and Placement for counseling. The Director will follow up each dismissal to assure that the student has or have the opportunity for an exit counseling session. A detailed written report will be filed in the student's master file, outlining a plan of action. This program will become effective January 1, 1973.