

Academic Standing and Honors Committee

Annual Report for the 2020–2021 Academic Year

The ASH Committee had a light load this year. The major task of our committee each year is to consider appeals of students that have been academically dismissed. Due to the S/U grade modification policy in effect for Fall 2020 & Winter 2020, our committee saw far fewer appeals than we normally would.

After Summer 2020, four dismissals were appealed and reviewed by our committee September 6, September 4, 2020. After Fall 2020, one dismissal was appealed and reviewed by our committee on January 7, 2021. After Winter 2021, one additional dismissal was appealed and reviewed on May 10, 2021. Additionally, our committee considered seven applications for second readmission.

Outside of the consideration of appeals, our committee also worked to communicate the new Dean's List and President's List requirements to the Registrar, Campus Communications, Deans' Offices, and the President's Office.

Three of our committee members also served on the S/U Task Force to investigate the potential negative impacts of the grade modification policy on student success. This spurred our committee to alter the questions on the appeal form ask students to discuss the circumstances that led to poor academic performance, including U grades, and explicitly asking students to describe circumstances beyond their control that led to poor performance, including the Covid pandemic.

We also communicated with students whose initial A-F grades in Fall 2020 would have put them on academic probation if the S/U policy had not been in place, offering them next steps and resources.

As the S/U grade policy sunsets this year, we expect and larger than normal number of appeals in the next year, especially after the Winter 2022 semester. We encourage the Senate Steering Committee to consider additional outreach and communications efforts so that students understand the temporary nature of the S/U grade modification policy, and the importance of remaining in good academic standing in order to avoid academic probation and dismissal.

Submitted by

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