

Academic Standing and Honors Committee

Annual Report for the 2008-2009 Academic year

The ASH committee for the 2008-2009 academic year comprised of 5 faculty members representing different academic units and representatives from other parts of the university. The voting committee members were: Eddie Cheng (Mathematics and Statistics, chair), László Lipták (Mathematics and Statistics), Mohammad-Reza Siadat (School of Engineering and Computer Science), Youngjoo Kim (School of Education and Human Services), and Xia Wang (School of Engineering and Computer Science). The non-voting committee members were Tamara Machmut-Jhashi (Designee of Vice President for Academic Affairs); Krista Malley, (Director, Academic Skills Center, Jocelyn Bennett-Garraway and Nancy Schmitz served as an interim basis); Dawn Aubry (Designee of Vice President of Student Affairs). Rose Wedemeyer (Assistant Director, Academic Skills Center), Aniesha Mitchell (Retention Coordinator, Academic Skills Center) and Carol Burns (Temporary Retention Consultant, Academic Skills Center) were three other participants at the meetings. There were three student-members on the committee. They were Jen Doptis, Janelle Aarbuckle, Dan Evola. In addition, Gale Habashneh (Academic Skills Center) provided administrative assistance.

The Senate's charge to the committee is as follows:

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

The activities of the ASH Committee this year centered mostly on deliberating on dismissal appeal cases and taking appropriate actions. A total of three regular meetings were held during the year. These committee meetings were held to consider appeals for Summer 2008, Fall 2008 and Winter 2009 semesters.

Dismissal details for the 2008-2009 academic year:

1. Summer 2008: There were 8 appeals and 5 of them were approved.
2. Fall 2008: There were 16 appeals and 11 of them were approved.
3. Winter 2009: There were 27 appeals and 20 of them were approved.

Continued with the practice in the past, we used a secured online system for managing dismissal appeals. This system was used by the committee for all deliberations during the 2008-2009 academic year. This system helped contain cost for the university since it became unnecessary to print several copies of student appeal documents for committee members. In addition, it shortened deliberation time for cases as committee members had already posted their comments online.

Rose Wedemeyer made some suggestions to wording changes in the Probation and Dismissal Policy. After a thorough discussion and some minor wording adjustment, the committee voted unanimously in support of the changes. The proposal has been submitted to Senate Steering Committee.

The Academic Skill Center, under the new leadership of Ms. Malley and Ms. Wedemeyer, has developed a site for students to securely submit their dismissal appeal forms online. The cases from Winter 2009 were submitted under the new system. I consider this a complete success.

The chair would like to thank all the members and participants of the committee for their dedicated services this year. In addition, the chair would also like to thank Ms. Malley and Ms. Wedemeyer, who came on board this academic year, for making such a significant impact in such a short time.

Submitted by:

Eddie Cheng
Chair, Academic Standing and Honors
Committee, 2008-2009 Academic year
(June 11, 2009)