

CAS Annual Report, 2004-2005

Members of the CAS 2004-2005:

Jennifer Delton, History (chair)
Robert Turner, Government
Rik Scarce, Anthropology, Sociology, and Social Work
Grace Burton, Interim Dean of Studies
Ann Henderson, Registrar
Andrew Kingman '05 (fall only)
Philip Eckstein '07 (spring only)
Regular visitors (nonvoting):
Tina Levith, Associate director, Dean of Studies
Dave DeConno, Associate Registrar

The Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) met weekly during the year and held two Academic Review sessions, one in Jan. 2005 and one in June 2005. In addition to hearing petitions and requests, and upholding the academic standards of Skidmore College, the CAS also enacted several new policies and continued discussions on medical leave return policy.

New Policies and Discussion

- Sophomore study abroad – After several discussions it was decided that CAS will no longer review sophomore applications for study abroad. Instead OIP will meet with sophomore applicants to make sure they are ready and qualified to go abroad. OIP will bring to us only cases where there is some question. Similarly OIP will also review seniors. The thinking here was that as study abroad becomes more common and more standardized, it is most efficient to let OIP evaluate students, keeping in mind Skidmore standards. GPA issues will continue to come before the CAS.
- AP credit – Began discussions on our AP credit policy. There has been an enormous growth in the granting of AP credit. No resolution.
- FYS policy – In conjunction with the director of the FYE and CEPP, CAS considered what Skidmore policy should be with regard to transfers, freshmen deferrals, and students who do not otherwise successfully complete the Scribner Seminar. Do all students have to complete a Scribner Seminar to graduate? It was decided that transfers with 12 or more credits would not have to take a Scribner Seminar, freshmen deferrals would, while for at least the next two years withdrawals and failures would be decided on a case by case basis by CAS and FYE director. CEPP presented this information to the faculty at the April 1, 2005 faculty meeting. See CEPP memo.
- Medical/Personal Leave policy – This has been an ongoing conversation for the past several years. Discussion in the spring focused on the “Process for Return from Medical Leave” segment of the proposed Medical/Personal Leave policy, which proposes mandated leaves after a medical leave “bailout,” as well as deadlines for appeals for exceptions to the mandated leave. The rationale here is to try to stem the volume of repeated medical leave “bailouts” by making sure students are in fact well and ready to re-assume the burdens of academic life when they return. On March 3, 2005, Pat Oles, Julia Routbort, and Cynthia Guile joined CAS for a discussion of

this proposed policy. Critics of the proposed policy would like to see more flexibility, a policy less encouraging of adversarial relations between families and Skidmore, a policy that does not stigmatize chronic mental illness by requiring stricter return guidelines than for other illnesses. The main division over this policy is between those who want a stricter, more formal, standardized process in the interests of fairness to students and families, and those who prefer the current informal, case-by-case policy, which seems more friendly, flexible, and appropriate for the medical issues at issue. The policy is currently in the process of being revised.

- Chronic illness and medical “bailout”: Other issues –1) how do we treat the bailout semester as we measure "progress toward the degree?"; 2) how do we treat a student who returns to the College and needs to be bailed out again? And 3) should we allow students who are not meeting minimum academic standards to withdraw from the College without facing disqualification? No resolution.

Academic Review

January 2005 2008 2007 2006 2005 Total

Disqualifications 1 9 4 0 14

Leave-Waiver 2 2 2 1 7

Waivers 4 3 0 4 11

June 2005 2008 2007 2006 2005 Total

Disqualifications 2 6 0 2 10

Leave-Waiver 1 0 2 n/a 3

Waiver 7 4 10 n/a 21

Statistical Information, 2004-05 (courtesy of Patty Ivory)

Study Abroad

Approved Academic Leaves for Affiliated Programs – 94

Approved Academic Leaves for Skidmore Programs - 123

Denied Academic Leaves for Affiliated Programs – 0

Denied Academic Leaves for Skidmore Programs - 0

Approved Academic Leaves for Non-Affiliated Programs – 128

Denied Academic Leaves for Non-Affiliated Programs – 1

Dean of Studies Office

Approved Personal Leave – 44

Approved Personal Leave Extension - 8

Approved Medical Leave – 27

Approved Medical Leave Extension – 9

Change in Status Requests (cancellations and change of venue) – 66

Approved Readmit - 7

DQ Appeals – 2
Registrar's
Add/Drop Approved - 143
Add/Drop Denied – 17
Grade Change approved – 0
Grade Change denied – 0
Overloads approved – 6
Withdrawals approved - 25
Withdrawals denied – 8
Miscellaneous approvals – 67
Miscellaneous denials - 9

Jennifer Delton will be leaving CAS, to be replaced by William Standish of the Chemistry Department, who will be chair. Next year the Committee will look something like this:

Bill Standish (chair)
Rik Scarce
Bob Turner
Ann Henderson, Registrar
Grace Burton, Interim Dean of Studies
[student rep]
Regular visitors (nonvoting):
Tina Levith, Associate director, Dean of Studies
Dave DeConno, Associate Registrar
Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Delton, chair, CAS, June 13, 2005