

CAS Annual Report, 2006-2007

Members of CAS, 2006-2007:

William Standish, Physics (Chair)

Tillman Nechtman, History

Rachel Roe-Dale, Mathematics and Computer Science

Beth DeBold '09, Student Representative (fall only)

Dewey Klurfield '08, Student Representative

Michael Ennis-McMillan, Dean of Studies

Ann Henderson, Registrar

Regular visitors (non-voting):

Tina Levith, Associate Director, Dean of Studies Office

David DeConno, Associate Registrar

The Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) met weekly during the academic year, and held two Academic Review sessions, on January 10, 2007 and on May 31, 2007. In addition to hearing petitions and requests, and upholding the academic standards of Skidmore College, CAS addressed issues regarding UWW admission of disqualified residential students, an affiliation with the National Student Exchange (NSE), the all-College cultural diversity requirement, and the Scribner Seminar Program. These issues are described in more detail below.

- **UWW admission of disqualified residential students** – The 2005-2006 CAS agreed in principle with the Office of Special Programs and University Without Walls on a policy regarding disqualified residential students being allowed to enroll in UWW. The current CAS codified this policy in its guidelines with the following statement. “Occasionally a student formerly enrolled in the residential college but disqualified by CAS will subsequently apply for admission to Skidmore’s University Without Walls. UWW and CAS have agreed that UWW will forward applications of all students who have been previously disqualified for CAS review. In such cases, CAS must grant its approval before UWW takes action on the applicant’s admission to UWW (see memo from UWW Acting Director to CAS Chair, Aug. 17, 2006). The Director of UWW will forward to the Office of the Dean of Studies, for transmittal to CAS, a previously disqualified student’s full academic record (Skidmore and all other official transcripts), along with UWW’s assessment of the likelihood that the student can be academically successful in the UWW program. CAS bases its decision to approve or disapprove primarily on this information.”
- **Affiliation with the National Student Exchange** – The former Office of International Programs (now the Office of Off-Campus Study and Exchanges) discussed with CAS a possible affiliation of Skidmore College with the National Student Exchange (NSE), a consortium of colleges and universities which shares their resources to expand student experiences and academic programs through student exchange. CAS approved a minimum GPA requirement of 3.0 both for

students applying to enter Skidmore on exchange and for Skidmore students seeking to study at another NSE institution. Students whose GPA is below 3.0 would be able to petition CAS for an exception, in the same way that students seeking to study abroad can do. CAS also agreed to mirror study abroad practices relating to maturity level credit obtained by students on exchange; i.e., Skidmore will accept all maturity level credit that has been approved by the appropriate academic department(s).

- **Culture-Centered Inquiry Requirement** – CAS recommended to the Committee on Education Policies and Planning that students no longer be permitted to substitute courses for the culture-centered inquiry requirement, based on their experience in non-Western cultures. CEPP agreed that the culture-centered inquiry requirement is much broader than the previous non-Western requirement, and that all students, regardless of background, would benefit from taking courses that allow them to enhance their ability to engage in intercultural interactions. Henceforth, CAS will no longer entertain requests for substitutions for non-Western courses.
- **Scribner Seminar Policy** – For the past two years, CAS has been operating under a policy worked out in consultation with CEPP and the Director of the FYE, to review, on a case-by-case basis, students who did not successfully complete the Scribner Seminar. Withdrawals and failures in SSP courses have been discussed by CAS and the Director of the FYE at the conclusion of each fall semester, and decisions have been made regarding the possible requirement that such students take another SSP course. CAS has reported those decisions and their rationales to CEPP, which will determine whether there should be any change in the present policy.

CAS has also begun or is continuing discussions on deadlines for internships, the two-withdrawal limit, the impact of integrity violations on honors, and waiver of minimum standards for continuation.

The composition of CAS for the 2007-2008 academic year will be

Tillman Nechtman, History (Chair)
Rachel Roe-Dale, Mathematics and Computer Science
William Standish, Physics
Michael Ennis-McMillan, Dean of Studies
Ann Henderson, Registrar
Two students to be named by SGA

Respectfully submitted,
William J. Standish, Chair
Committee on Academic Standing