

CAS Annual Report, 2013-14

Members of CAS

Cathy Gibson, Chair (Fall), Environmental Studies
Katie Hauser, Chair (Spring), Art History
Eric Morser (History)
Dave DeConno, Registrar
Corey Freeman-Gallant, Associate Dean of the Faculty for Academic Policy & Advising
Alex Hodor-Lee, student representative (Fall)

Regular Visitors (non-voting)

Tina Breakell, Associate Director, Office of Off-Campus Study and Exchange
Sharon Clemmey, Assistant Registrar
Beth McPhee, Academic Advisor
Kim Marsella, Director of Academic Advising

Summary of Activities

The Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) met weekly during the academic year, and held two Academic Review sessions, one in January, 2014, and a second in June, 2014. In addition the Committee held a separate end-of-the-year Academic Review session for graduating seniors in May, 2014. The Chair of the CAS also participated with the ADOF and the Registrar in re-admission application meetings in December, 2013.

During its weekly meetings, the CAS heard petitions and requests from the offices of Academic Advising (OAA), the Registrar, and Off-Campus Study and Exchange (OCSE). In each case, the petitions brought before CAS involved deviations from the college's established academic standards, and it was the Committee's obligation to determine whether or not the petitions could be accommodated without compromising Skidmore's commitment to academic excellence.

In addition to the above responsibilities, this year's CAS considered issues potentially related to policy changes.

- 1) Interim suspensions and course enrollments: students under interim suspension from fall to spring retain their course enrollments for spring even though they are not permitted to be on campus. At times those courses face significant enrollment pressures, and ultimately the appeal process can end up shutting out both the enrolled student who may be suspended and any student interested in the course (because the spot was not available during the add period as the appeal process can extend beyond that), leaving an empty seat in the class. After consulting with the Dean of Students & Vice President for Student Affairs, the Committee ultimately decided not to make changes to the policy. Any change could potentially be unfair to the suspended student; the situation arises so rarely that it does not demand a policy change at this time.

- 2) Waiver of a foundation/all-college requirement in the case of documented disability. The Committee, after gaining CEPP's unanimous support, will change the policy that currently requires any student unable to complete an all-college requirement to leave the college. CEPP and CAS agree that a course could be waived if 1) a reasonable accommodation could not be found and 2) a substitution that preserved the spirit of the requirement could not be found. Such a waiver would happen in only the most extraordinary of circumstances.
- 3) The Committee eliminated Academic Leaves as a distinct category and will now allow students to transfer up to 18 credits per semester during a Medical or Personal leave. This change acknowledges that students take personal and medical leaves for a variety of reasons, many of which do not preclude full-time study.
- 4) The Committee worked with the Athletic Council to revise the joint CAS-AC policy that governs academic eligibility requirements for participation in NCAA sports. Students who do not meet minimal standards of continuation may now apply to participate in athletics during their "waiver" semester.
- 5) The Committee began considering conflict of interest issues regarding faculty and their dependents/partners through a discussion at the May 2014 Chairs and Program Directors meeting. The committee will continue addressing this issue in 2014-15.
- 6) The Committee affirmed its respect for medical evaluations that support student petitions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Hauser
Chair (Spring) of CAS

Composition of CAS AY 2014-15

Chair, Eric Morser, History
Jenny Huangfu Day, History
Rebecca Johnson, Psychology
Corey Freeman-Gallant, Associate Dean of the Faculty for Academic Policy & Advising
Dave DeConno, Registrar
SGA student representatives: TBA

Regular Visitors AY 2014-15 (non-voting)

Tina Breakell, Associate Director, Office of Off-Campus Study and Exchange
Sharon Clemmey, Assistant Registrar
Beth McPhee, Academic Advisor

Kim Marsella, Director of Academic Advising