

# CAS ANNUAL REPORT, 2022-2023

## **Members of CAS (voting)**

- Mayuri Roca, Chair, Chemistry
- Kyle Nichols, Geosciences
- Kris Covey, Environmental studies
- Dave DeConno, Registrar
- Michael Arnush, Associate Dean of the Faculty
- Emilka Jansen, SGA student representative (Fall 2022)

## **Regular visitors (non-voting)**

- Ryan Homsey, Office of Academic Advising
- Beth McPhee, Office of Academic Advising
- Cori Filson, Office of Off-Campus Study and Exchanges
- Eliza Camire-Akey, Office of Off-Campus Study and Exchanges
- Shannon Melvin, Registrar

## **Regular business**

Weekly meetings were held during the academic year to discuss students' requests for exceptions to our established academic norms. The offices of the registrar, OAA, and OCSE, anonymized the requests and presented them to CAS on behalf of the student. For these petitions, the committee considered the most beneficial outcome, short and long terms, for students, faculty, and the college's academic commitment.

End-of-semester Academic Review sessions were held in January and June to discuss the status of students who failed to satisfy minimum continuation standards; students were granted waivers to return the following semester, put on leave for a year, or disqualified from continuing studies at Skidmore.

CAS participated in the Academic Review in May to discuss the academic plans of August graduates.

## **Other businesses**

Participation in the governance committee chairs meeting that met with three DOF/VPAA candidates.

Discussions about honors and grade inflation. It was decided to do not present this data to the faculty as it may be skewed by the S/CR/U grading adjustments done during COVID.

Discussion about the minimal continuation standards. Two motions were brought to the faculty; the first motion asked to set the minimum accumulated GPA of 2.000 for all students regardless of the number of semesters completed; the second motion asked to change the number of accumulated credits each semester to be a suggestion rather than a requirement. Both motions were approved.

Discussion about how to handle cases based on untruthful or unfair accounts. Given that students' petitions are curated by the registrar, OAA, or OCSE, these offices will notify either ADOF or HR if they encounter evidence of misconduct.

Discussion about unlimited number of withdrawals. The policy that limits to 3 the number of W's may not be serving our current students. Information is being gathered from peer institutions, the registrar, and former members of CAS about the advantages and disadvantages of having an unlimited number of withdrawals. Collecting feedback from faculty and students is desirable; this should be properly planned.

Discussion about who should attend academic review in June. Since leaving faculty may have contract limitations in June, i.e., sabbatical or retirement, it was agreed that only returning faculty should attend the academic review in June. Incoming faculty representatives are invited to attend.

Discussion about first year students. It was suggested to state that a student who requests a leave of absence by the first third of the semester cannot petition to return in the spring semester. This suggestion cannot be enforced.

Discussion about course substitutions in the major. The ADOF drafted a footnote on course substitutions to add to the CAS Operating Code; this note describes a substitution due to an extreme learning disability.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryuri Roca,

Chair of CAS