

CAS ANNUAL REPORT, 2025-2026

Members of CAS (voting)

Greg Pfitzer, Chair, American Studies

Julie Douglas, Mathematics and Statistics

Denise Evert, Psychology

Dave DeConno, Registrar

Corey Freeman-Gallant, Associate Dean of the Faculty

Anna Barnes, '26, SGA student representative

Jonathan Lipman, '27, SGA student representative

Regular visitors (non-voting)

Ryan Homsey, Office of Academic Advising

Beth McPhee, Office of Academic Advising

Eliza Camire-Akey, Office of Off-Campus Study and Exchanges

Shannon Melvin, Registrar

Regular business

As in prior years, weekly meetings were held regularly throughout the academic year to discuss students' requests for exceptions to our established academic rules regarding drop/add and withdrawal deadlines as well as overload requests and minimum grade point averages for off-campus study. The offices of the Registrar, OAA, and OCSE also presented requests to CAS on behalf of students. For these petitions, the committee considered the most beneficial outcome, short and long term, for students, faculty, and the college's commitment to academic excellence.

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. Some students were granted waivers to return the following semester while others applied successfully for planned leaves of absence or were placed on a one-semester mandatory leave. Still others were disqualified from continuing

studies. An Academic Review session for seniors was held in May to discuss the academic plans of August graduates.

Other business

CAS continued discussions regarding the grounds for justifying a W petition submitted after the W deadline. In particular, the committee considered several cases involving conduct issues (such as Title IX and Academic Integrity cases) and agreed that given the specific nature of these cases (which, as part of their resolution, may permit a student to withdraw from a course after the W deadline), the ADOF is not required to bring the cases to CAS for approval. Such cases are reported to the CAS for purposes of tracking.

CAS adjusted its operating code to endorse four “Core Considerations on Implementation” governing when First-Year students might be offered a January start. The four considerations included the following: 1) Offered only to non-US citizens in the case of visa trouble, not to domestic students who encounter personal or medical difficulty before the start of the fall term; 2) Consultation with the FYE and the TLC required; 3) January starts are not offered proactively to non-US citizens but only after they have attempted to secure a visa (and failed); and 4) January starts are offered to ALL non-US citizens who encounter trouble securing a visa, regardless of need (that is, the possibility of Jan start-date is not used as an enrollment management tool to shape the fiscal profile of the class).

CAS also altered an element of its Operating Code regarding students applying to study abroad. The current practice is that if a student is placed on probation because the preceding semester’s GPA was under 2.0, the student is not permitted while on probation to apply for study abroad in a future semester, even if their cumulative GPA is above 2.75. This policy precludes a student with a good academic history who is on probation because of poor performance in only one semester, from applying for off-campus study. It is rare for students to get a second semester of probation. Accordingly, CAS altered its operating code so that students on probation (a prior term GPA below 2.0) who have a cumulative GPA above 2.749, may petition the CAS for an exception to the GPA requirement. If the exception is granted, there would still be a grade check before the student goes abroad to ensure that their current term GPA was above 2.0. See operating

code under section “D. Eligibility Standards for Off-Campus Study” and 2) “Eligibility Standards and Rationale.”

The CAS subsumed under its Operating Code two documents that guide the adjudication of academic integrity matters: the Definitions and Guidelines document, and the Sanctions and Further Impact Document. Changes to these documents proposed by the ADOF or student conduct officer are brought to the CAS for consideration.

In consultation with OAA, CAS discussed the process and timeline by which students returning from medical leaves can apply for a return to campus. CAS agreed that it was okay to have students forgo an application to return from a medical leave when taking an online summer course at Skidmore, as doing this helps the student to know if they are ready to manage a Skidmore course again.

The Registrar’s office processed over 350 late adds that came in after the original add deadline (mainly in performance-based MP, Dance, and Theater Production courses). Members of CAS discussed among themselves and with at least one such department chair whether it would be feasible and prudent to have an extended add deadline for such courses. CAS approved an extended add deadline for MP courses to two weeks (matching the drop deadline). The Committee did not approve an extended drop deadline for MP courses.

The ADOF initiated a conversation regarding grade inflation that CAS hopes to revisit next year. CAS members reviewed statistical data that revealed a steady rise in grades of A and A- over the last thirty years of spring term academic records. Given that this seems to be a national trend, the committee discussed: 1) why we are seeing such increases; 2) whether we should be concerned with them; 3) what other schools are doing to address the issue; and 4) how to make the general college aware of these numbers. The CAS also considered criteria for College Honors.

Denise Evert in Psychology will be chairing the committee next year.

Respectfully Submitted by

Greg Pfitzer
Chair of CAS