

FACULTY MEETING
March 3, 2023

Motions to change the minimal standards for continuation

Motion: require all students to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000.

Rationale: Currently, first-semester students who earn a cumulative GPA between 1.670 and 1.999, and second-semester students who earn a cumulative GPA between 1.850 and 1.999, earn only probation.¹ While these students still receive support and outreach from the Office of Academic Advising, they are not required to reflect formally on their past performance and present CAS and OAA with an academic plan for success.

Changing the GPA requirement for all students to be above 2.000 will mean that the number of first-semester students in January, and second-semester students in June, who are up for Academic Review will increase. CAS will review more students,² but it will also mean that students in their first year who are struggling (i.e., not maintaining a “C” average) will be reviewed, placed on waiver, and thus receive more support. CAS understands that first-year students often struggle with the transition to college and rarely disqualifies them if they are willing to utilize the resources offered and develop a plan for success.

According to the [CAS Operating Code](#), “In addition to the minimal standards for continuation which the CAS establishes (with faculty approval), monitors, and interprets, the CAS reviews the records of students who have not completed all the appropriate all-College requirements by their specified deadlines” (p. 17). Hence, CAS seeks faculty approval for these changes.

Motion: remove semester hours completed from the standards for continuation and reframe the criteria as an expectation rather than a requirement to continue their studies.

Rationale: CAS never disqualifies a student based solely on semester hours completed. While we do wish to help students make progress towards the degree and preferably in eight to ten semesters, treating students with successful academic records, even with very high GPAs, as if they are *failing* to meet standards sends the wrong message. The letter students will receive, and the tone of the outreach by OAA, instead will focus on helping the students build an academic plan that gets them closer to the eight-semester completion. This proposal reflects current practice, not a new approach to supporting our students.

¹ All students who have a cumulative or semester GPA less than 2.000 earn probation.

² For example, CAS would have reviewed 10 first-semester students in January of 2023 in addition to the 16 up for review, a 63% increase.

CAS believes these changes are largely procedural: they will benefit the students by creating more appropriate outreach, and yet they will not alter the faculty's expectations for academic rigor. However, according to the [CAS Operating Code](#), "In addition to the minimal standards for continuation which the CAS establishes (with faculty approval), monitors, and interprets, the CAS reviews the records of students who have not completed all the appropriate all-College requirements by their specified deadlines" (p. 17). Hence, CAS seeks faculty approval for these changes.