Standards for Students Committee

Final Reports
2014-2015

Members:

H. Maldonado, Chair (University College, Academic Standards)

R. Connors-Wilkins (Admissions), R. Fish (Social and Psychological Foundations of Education), K. Fujiuchi (Library), F. Gage (Fine Arts), C. Guichardo (Student), J. Hunt (Psychology), M. Menasco (Criminal Justice), K. Orosz (History & Social Studies), B. Sherman (Computer Information Systems), J. Wieczkowski (Anthropology), V. Furby (Music)

Administrative Liaison- Charles Kenyon, (Dean of Students Office)

Charge: In support of Buffalo State College’s vision, mission, and core values, the committee on Standards for Students shall review and recommend policies and procedures dealing with but not limited to:

1. The admission and readmission of all students.
2. The retention of all students in regard to academic policies, student conduct, and institutional programs and initiatives.
3. The graduation of all students.

Name of Chair Submitting Report: Heather Maldonado

Anticipated Vacancies in 2015-2016 for Committee Members:

1 from the School of Arts & Humanities, 1 student, Fall 15 substitute from the School of Natural and Social Sciences for sabbatical coverage, possibly 1 from the School of Professions

Report:

Old Business continued from 2013-14:

1. Review of Dean’s List policy (to include INE courses) - Discussion throughout 2013-14; additional data required (Cross registration, study abroad, National Student Exchange, Open SUNY (impact on honors); rationale for the 1995 change that added the exclusion; comparable policy at SUNY Comprehensive Colleges); Dean’s List/Graduation with Honors inclusion – based on review of (a) current GPA calculation policies related to transfer credit, cross-registration, Open SUNY, study abroad, and national student exchange, and (b) practice at four-year SUNY schools it was decided that the current policy does not need to be revised.
New Business for 2014-15:

1. **Freshmen Admissions Policy review** – as a result of a Spring 2014 S4S motion related to becoming a Standardized Test Optional Freshmen Admissions campus (which was not supported by the College Senate), S4S was charged to form an ad hoc work group with representation from S4S and Enrollment Management (EM) to review the freshmen admissions policy. S4S met with EM staff in early Fall 2014 to better understand the current freshmen admissions process, standards, and data. The ad hoc work group was formed in late Fall 2014. The work group met in early Spring 2015 to review institutional data, peer information, SUNY regulations, and national best practices. They then revised the portion of the 1992 admissions policy that addressed freshmen admissions and, during their final review of their revisions, realized that this revised policy should be proposed to be added to DOPS as there was not a freshmen admissions policy in DOPS. The work group presented their revised freshmen admissions policy in DOPS format to S4S, S4S accepted the revisions and presented them to the Senate in April 2015. The motion to add the revised freshmen admissions policy to DOPS was voted on in May 2015 and [insert vote result].

2. **Advisement review** – S4S members requested to review advisement on campus during their first meeting in Fall 2014; the S4S chair asked the Senate chair for this charge and both he and the Provost so charged the committee. A call went out in Fall 2014 to the Student Welfare and Instruction & Research committees for representation on the S4S ad hoc advisement work group. The work group met before the start of the Spring 2015 to review information about institutional practice, SUNY peer Student Opinion Survey ratings and advisement models, Council for Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) standards for academic advisement, National Association of Academic Advisors (NACADA) best practices, and peer-reviewed literature about academic advisement. During Spring 2015, S4S meet with department chairs and asked questions of each of them about departmental advising practices/successes/challenges, held open forums for advisors and students, as well as a roundtable discussion for the award-winning advisors on campus. S4S will continue working on this charge over the summer and during Fall 2015 and will deliver a written CAS self-study on academic advisement and recommendations for improving advisement on campus to the College Senate by the end of Fall 2015.

3. **DOPS I:16:02 Evaluation of Students** (joint review with Instruction & Research and Faculty Staff Welfare committees) – Standards for Students agreed with the spirit of this motion, but did not co-sponsor it because we did not agree with the other committees on the appropriate deadline by which mid-term evaluations should be completed (S4S felt the deadline should be a week earlier than presented in the motion).
4. **4 + 1 degree pathways policy** (Submitted by Kevin Railey) – reviewed by S4S during Fall 15 and Spring 15. Motion to create a 4+1 degree pathway policy was presented at the May 2015 Senate and approved.

5. **Minor policy review** (currently under review by the Curriculum committee) – S4S supported the Curriculum Committee’s motion

6. **DOPS VI:07:00 Guidelines for “Extra Service” Compensation** (joint review with Instruction & Research and Faculty Staff Welfare committees) – determined to be beyond the scope of the Standards for Students charge.

7. **Buffalo State Creed** – reviewed by S4S in Spring 15. Concerns about context and use were raised and S4S requested more information before any Senate action was taken was shared with the Senate Chairs in April 2015.

*Postponed Items in 2014-15:*

1. **Stop-outs/LOAs/MLOAs policy review** – discussion postponed in 2013-14 and 2014-15, but S4S feels that these three types of two-year absences from the college should be better differentiated and plans take this issue up again in 2015-16.

2. **Three major policy**

3. **Off-Campus Study policy/procedure**

4. **Grade Change policy** (per F13 SUNY policy statement)

*Tabled Items in 2014-15:*

1. **Involuntary Medical Leave** (see 2012-13 annual report for details)
   a. Faculty and Staff Welfare explored the creation of an involuntary leave policy in 2014-15 (S4S material from past years work on the topic were forwarded to F&SW for their review/use)