Standards for Students Committee

Final Report
2018-2019

Members:
A. Wilson, Chair (Higher Education Administration)
P. Alessandra (Prof Staff Acad. Affairs), L. Berglund (English), D. Drayton (Undergrad Student), S. Felsenfeld (Speech & Language Pathology), R. Fish (Social and Psychological Foundations of Education), K. Fujiuchi (Library), M. Knowles (Communication), H. Maldonado (Academic Affairs), P. Marinaccio (Grad-Student), M. Metzger (Prof. Staff-Admissions), M. Skerrett (Biology), J. Wieczkowski (Anthropology), A. Woznick (Prof-Staff Academic Commons), C. Kindzierski (Elementary Ed, Literacy and Ed Leadership), S. Young, (Acad. Liaison, 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: Amy Wilson

Anticipated Vacancies in 2019-2020 for Committee Members: The Standards for Students committee will be looking for an undergraduate and graduate student, as well as a faculty from the School of the Professions

Approximate Number of Meetings: 7

Annual Report:
Old business from 2017-2018

1. Graduation/Residency requirements – Proposed revision to collegewide degree requirements to reduce Buffalo State minimum number of credits from 32 to 30 and to eliminate the 16 credit implied residency requirement as it is often petitioned or not enforceable due to the evolution of learning environments (study abroad vs study away, CLEP, etc.).
2. **Course Repeat policy (undergraduate)** – Proposal to revise DOPS policy I:16:08 to allow students to count higher grade when a course is repeated, and to allow students to repeat a course outside of Buffalo State and transfer the course in for credit, excluding original grade.
   a. Voted on and approved by Senate at April 2019 Meeting

3. **IB Credits**– Proposed revision to current Alternative Methods to Earning College Credit policy (1:04:01) to establish current practice for consideration of International Baccalaureate credits and to lower requirement from a score of 5 to 4 for both SL and HL Exams for granting credit.
   a. Voted on and approved by the Senate at April 2019 Meeting
   b. S4S should follow up with Deans to encourage a review of credit equivalency for HL exams that would allow for awarding additional credits (6 or more) for scores of a 5 or higher on HL exams (consistent practice of some SUNY schools)

4. **Graduate School Course Repeat Policy** – Proposed new and distinct policy to allow graduate students, with department approval, to repeat a course (regardless of the grade they may have received) when the content has been substantially revised.
   a. Voted on and approved at March 2019 Meeting.

5. **Graduate School Upper Division Criteria** – Reviewed proposal from Graduate Advisory Council to establish criteria for defining and designating upper division graduate coursework (IV:15:01).
   a. Voted on and approved at February 2019 Meeting

6. **Course Audit Policy Review** – Joint review led by Instruction and Research; draft of new/revised policy was presented to Senate in October.
   a. Voted on and approved at November 2019 Meeting

7. **Administrative removal of students from classes** – This concern has been addressed through Registrar’s office in collaboration with Academic Standards. New practices are in place that involve documenting communication with students and allowing students time to respond to Registrar about other options before removing administratively. Required no work on the part of S4S.

New business for 2018-2019

1. **Graduate Topics Courses** – Reviewed policy revision proposed through Senate Curriculum Committee to develop policy for graduate students regarding Topics Courses, as such policy does not exist. S4S made recommendations to create policy in line with undergraduate policy. Motion was presented by CSCC.
   a. Voted on and approved at April 2019 Meeting

Postponed Items from 2018-2019, to be addressed 2019-2020

1. **Graduate School Clemency Policy** – The Graduate Advisory Council and the Graduate School put forth a policy that documents clemency for graduate students, distinct from that for
undergraduate students. S4S reviewed policy and made suggested revisions for consideration. Proposal was sent back to GAC and Graduate School.

2. **Upper Division Credit Limit** – In fall of 2017 S4S was asked to review and consider Buffalo State compliance issues with SUNY Upper Division Credit requirement. Buffalo State catalog suggests a minimum of 36 credits; however, DOPS indicates we are operating at a requirement of 45, which is in line with SUNY requirements. In Spring 2018, issue and solutions were presented to Provost, who agreed to work with the Deans to get departments back in compliance before Middle States periodic review in 2019. Nothing was done at Dean’s/Provost level and in spring 2019, new interim provost asked S4S to propose revision to the policy that would consider some 200 level courses as UD after consulting with Dean’s about desired solution for compliance. Policy is currently under review by Curriculum Committee.

3. **Commencement Policy** – New policy was proposed from Academic Affairs to develop understanding of the distinction between commencement and graduation. Policy should be further reviewed by S4S in the fall. Recommendation is to change title of current DOPS policy (I:04:00) to Graduation Requirements, then have a section titled Collegewide Degree Requirements for Baccalaureate Degrees and a new section on Commencement Ceremonies (as proposed). Commencement Ceremonies policy should be reviewed by Graduate School for consideration and whether a section could be added to address graduate student degree requirements.

**Tabled business in 2018-2019**

1. **Grade Change** policy (per F13 SUNY policy statement) – review campus compliance with SUNY regulation and identify any areas for process improvement including faculty education
2. **Minimum Grade for Transfer Credit Acceptance** – policy review: [http://www.suny.edu/attend/academics/genedreq/](http://www.suny.edu/attend/academics/genedreq/)
3. **ESL and Global Language Requirement** – Clarifying current verification process and demonstration of competency. Will continue discussion in fall regarding solutions and resolutions.