

**ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE  
FINAL REPORT: 2019-2020**

This year's committee read and acted on 6,148 student appeals which represents a 8.3% increase over the number of appeals processed by last year's committee and is a record number of appeals acted on in a year. The number of all three types of appeals considered by the committee increased with the greatest increase in the number of appeals for reinstatement of financial aid (10.9% more than prior year) and the lowest rate of increase in the number of grade change appeals (2.9%). The following statistics summarize the committee's activities from June 18, 2019 to May 8, 2020 as per data provided by the Registrar's office:

| Type of appeal:  | Total | Granted          | Denied         |
|--|-------|------------------|----------------|
| Grade change and/or retroactive withdrawal                   | 675   | 643<br>(95.3%)   | 32<br>(4.7%)   |
| Re-instatement on special probation after academic dismissal | 1,965 | 1,804<br>(91.8%) | 161<br>(8.2%)  |
| Financial aid (TAP or Title IV waiver)                       | 3,508 | 3,068<br>(87.5%) | 440<br>(12.5%) |
| Totals:  | 6,148 | 5,515<br>(89.7%) | 633<br>(10.3%) |

It is a testament to the consistency of the members' application of our appeal reading standards that the rate at which appeals were granted this year is only slightly higher than that of the prior year's appeals (89.7% vs. 88.9%). The rate of grade changes increased slightly, the rate of granting re-instatement appeals decreased slightly, and the grant rate for financial aid appeals decreased slightly from last year's.

Some of the increase in the number of appeals for financial aid might be attributed to a policy change regarding when the students' records are evaluated and their aid is suspended. The committee has no purview over this policy. The committee read a much larger number of appeals than usual over January because the change meant that more students' aid was in jeopardy for the spring semester than usual.

During the year, the chair met with the Vice President of Enrollment Management, the Director of Financial Aid, and the counselors in the Department of Student Life to ensure that the committee's policies and procedures meshed as well as possible with institutional imperatives and students' needs.

The number of students on probation and academically dismissed are often cited during the ongoing discussions as part of the Interim President's Designing for Success initiative. In these discussions, which also affect areas under the purview of this committee, this committee has often taken the perspective that any change in policies

must be accompanied by a comprehensive program of interventions that identify and intercede on the behalf of students at risk of being on probation or dismissed. The current appeals process is, at this point, often and unfortunately, the only way that students find out that they are in jeopardy and the only mandatory intervention provided is the meeting with counselors and, in the case of financial aid, an academic advisor to fill out the appeal. At that meeting students and their counselors assess the causes of the situation and discuss resources and strategies that might facilitate the students' return to good academic standing. The committee therefore ought to continue its close collaboration with the Counseling Center that assists students in filing appeals that are likely to be granted. All 6,148 appeals that the committee read and acted on represent a meeting between a counselor and a student and that often leads to a student being more aware of resources and strategies to reach the goal of a BMCC diploma.

Both the Counseling Center and the registrar's office have facilitated the service that this committee performs for our students and this institution.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Miller, Chair

Members:

Domenick Acocella  
James Blake  
Horace Brockington  
Melissa Butler  
Cheryl Christopher  
Anthony Creaco  
Kathleen Dreyer  
Alicia Perdomo  
Christine Priano (Secretary)  
Daniel Torres-Rangel  
Cynthia Wiseman (Representative to Executive Committee)