

**ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT: 2015-2016**

This year's committee read and acted on a record number of appeals! The 4632 appeals read represents an increase of 19.8% above the number processed by last year's committee. While the number of students appealing their eligibility for financial aid was little changed, the number of students seeking a change of grade or withdraw after the deadline and the number of students appealing an academic dismissal from the college increased significantly.

The following statistics summarize the committee's activities from June 2015 to May 20, 2016 as per data provided by the Registrar's office:

Type of appeal:	Total	Granted	Denied
Grade change and/or retroactive withdrawal	711	669 (94.1%)	41 (5.8%)
Re-instatement on special probation after academic dismissal	1367	1162 (85.0%)	58 (15.0%)
Financial aid (TAP or Title IV waiver)	2554	2002 (78.4%)	552 (21.6%)
Totals:	4632	3833 (82.8%)	798 (17.2%)

The rate at which the various categories of appeals were granted did not vary greatly from last year's rates (the grant rates of 94.1, 85.0, and 78.9% compared to last year's rates of 90.1, 76.7, and 78.9% respectively.) The number of financial aid appeals denied this year differs from the number denied last year by a mere 3 appeals! The overall rate at which appeals were granted went up to 82.8% from 79.6% last year mostly due to the change in the composition of the types of appeals read (more grade change and re-instatement appeals which are typically granted at a higher rate.)

The committee did not spend much time discussing policy issues this year probably due to the unprecedented volume of appeals to consider. However, as chair, I took several initiatives to improve the relationship between the committee and the counselors in the Department of Student Life. I met for an hour and a half with the counselors to discuss how the committee judges various types of appeals so that the counselors would know how best to help students write successful appeals. The counselors had many thought-provoking questions that led to several follow-up meetings with the director of counseling. I also provided feedback on a student intake form that is now in use in the Department of Student Life that assists students in the process of filing an appeal.

One issue that has been raised several times is the procedure for change of grade appeals. In one specific case, a student appealed to have a W grade after the deadline to withdraw but before the end of the course. The appeal was granted. The student continued to attend the course pending the outcome of the appeal and passed the course. The student

was surprised to learn that the W grade she had been granted could not be changed. This matter requires careful counseling and advisement.

The faculty members on this committee have worked tirelessly on students' appeals. Since each appeal is read by two committee members, about 9000 decisions were rendered (about 800 per committee member!) Without their talents, diligent efforts, and dedicated service, our students would not have had the benefit of knowing the outcomes of their appeals in a timely way. I believe that all appeals filed were read and acted on by the committee within 30 days of their submission. Very few cases that appeared to be inconsistent and needed further review came to my attention this year. That fact and the maintenance of rate at which appeals have been granted over time point to the consistency of the members' actions on appeals.

The Registrar's office (Tanoai Williams, Divine Sikanku, and Raquel Whitter in particular) has provided an outstanding level of service to assist the committee's work.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Miller, Chair

Members:

James Blake
Horace Brockington
Arthur Cain
Cheryl Christopher
Anthony Creaco
Owen Meyers
Alicia Perdomo
Leslie Rennis (Secretary)
Sarah Salm (representative to the Executive committee)
Igor Zaitsev
Shengkun Zhang