

Academic Standing and Honors Committee

Annual Report for the 2006-2007 Academic year

The ASH committee for the 2006-2007 academic year comprised of 5 faculty members representing different academic units and representatives from other parts of the university. The voting committee members were: Eddie Cheng (Mathematics and Statistics, chair), Suha Kridli (School of Nursing), Mohammad Bazaz (School of Business Administration), Dan Ring (Kresge Library), and Youngjoo Kim (School of Education and Human Services). The non-voting committee members were Tamara Machmut-Jhashi (Designee of Vice President for Academic Affairs); Charles Clark (Director, Academic Skills Center); Christine Cleary (Engel) (Designee of Vice President of Student Affairs). Ivy Horn (Assistant Director, Academic Skills Center) and Aniesha Mitchell (Retention Coordinator, Academic Skills Center) were two other participants at the meetings. There were three student-members on the committee. They are Mila Evans, Madalyn Miller and Jameelah Mohammad. In addition, Gale Habashneh (Academic Skills Center) provided administrative assistance.

The Senate's charge to the committee is as follows:

To review, propose, and implement university policies concerning academic probation, dismissal, and readmission; to present to the Senate the Registrar's list of candidates for graduation with any recommendations for deletions or additions to the list; and to review and transmit to the Senate nominees for University honors.

The activities of the ASH Committee this year centered mostly on deliberating on dismissal appeal cases and taking appropriate actions. A total of four meetings were held during the year. These committee meetings were held to consider appeals for Summer 2006, Fall 2006, Winter 2007, and Spring 2007 semesters. Summary details for the dismissals and corresponding appeals are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Dismissal details for the 2006-2007 academic year

Item \ Semesters	Summer 2006	Fall 2006	Winter 2007	Spring 2007
Total Dismissals	2	82	109	10
# of appeals received	0	19	23	7
# of appeals approved	0	10	9	2
# of appeals denied	0	9	14	5

Continued with the practice initiated last year, we used a secured online system for managing dismissal appeals. This system was used by the committee for all deliberations during the 2006-2007 academic year. As mentioned by the previous chair, this system helped contain cost for the university since it became unnecessary to print several copies of student appeal documents for committee members. In addition, it shortened deliberation time for cases as committee members had already posted their comments online.

As mentioned by the previous chair, the committee had decided last year that claims made in the appeals must be backed up by some evidence, otherwise they will not count in the committee's deliberations. The committee continued with this guideline.

The previous chair reported that during last academic year, "the committee discussed the issue of receipt of dismissal appeal letters as there have been cases when students either complained that they did not receive the letters or that they received the letter after the committee had met to deliberate on the cases. It was agreed that students should be notified by using e-mail in addition to the postal mail currently used. This will reduce the likelihood that a student did not know about the dismissal. Details of the modalities for this procedure will be worked out by the committee in due course in consultation with the dean of students." This had been implemented for the academic year 2006-2007, the deadline for submitting the appeals was strictly enforced.

Finally, at the suggestion of Mr. Clark, the committee has started to develop guidelines to help new members in deliberating cases.

Submitted by:

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Chair, Academic Standing and Honors
Committee, 2006-2007 Academic year
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