

Annual Report: Academic Standing and Honors Committee.

During the academic year of 1977-78, the Committee devoted the major portion of its time to the implementation of existing policies. Regular meetings were held on the average of once a month with two to three day special sessions being held to consider dismissal cases at the end of each of the four semesters. This represents a decrease in the level of activity of recent years. This decrease does not reflect any lack of enthusiasm on the part of the Committee but rather reflects the fact that in the previous year reviews were conducted of the policies dealing with appeals, readmissions, and honors and that the two years before that had been devoted to a major reformulation of the probation and dismissal policies. This new policy has now been in effect for two full academic years, and the major portion of this report will comment upon what seem to be the initial consequences. Before doing so, let me briefly summarize the legislation which the Committee brought before the Senate during the last year.

The text of the legislation is given in Appendix I; it represents an addition to the probation and dismissal policy. Its passage by the Senate permits the Committee to treat certain readmitted students in the same manner as transfer students for the purposes of determining their academic standing. It provides the opportunity of a clean start for some students who may have had a disastrous prior record at Oakland and spares them the harassment of receiving repeated dismissal notices that are based on this earlier Oakland experience that has been forgiven.

Appendix II provides data concerning Committee actions over the past eight major semesters. The vertical line divides the semesters under the old probation and dismissal policy from those under the new policy. The information presented deals with the number of dismissal letters sent by the Dean of Student Services at the end of the semester, the number of appeals received by the Committee, the disposition of these appeals by the Committee and the net number of dismissals resulting from the entire process. It should be noted that appeal forms are included in the dismissal letter. The data from the Fall Semester of 1975 was not available in complete detail, and the figure of 153 in the Dismissal Option program represents not only those assigned by Committee action in that semester, but also includes carryovers from other semesters as well.

There is a definite increase in the total number of dismissals during the two most recent years. Whether this trend will continue or not is unclear. The present figures indicate that the source of the increase lies in the number of dismissal letters originally sent (due to the policy) and in the number of appeals that are denied (due to the Committee). The reason for the increase in the number of dismissal letters is not known, but it can be verified that the students so identified have met with little or no success in their classes at

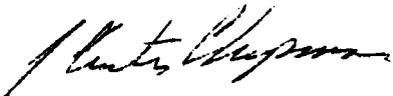
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Oakland. The increase in appeal denials can be attributed to a conscious decision by the Committee to take the probationary semester more seriously. A student whose performance during the probationary semester has not improved and ignores this issue in his/her appeal weakens his/her case measurably.

There are some other differences that can be noticed between the two policies, and they reveal themselves in the transcripts of the students whose appeals are reviewed by the Committee. The new policy forces both the student and the University to deal with academic difficulty more promptly. While lack of academic success has been clear under both policies, it is fair to say that transcripts under the old policy often raised the question as to why dismissal had not taken place earlier. Also in those cases where appeals were supported by the Committee the student often faced many semesters of work before good standing could be regained. The current experience in the DOP program suggests a much quicker return to good standing by those who meet the program's requirements. In the Committee's opinion, this more direct resolution of academic difficulty is the main advantage of the new policy.

This concludes my report on the Committee's activities during the past year. I would like to personally thank all of the Committee's members for their work and cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Curtis Chipman  
Chairperson  
Academic Standing and Honors Committee

Appendix I

(To Section II, add:)

Stipulations for students readmitted to the University after October, 1977:

- a) Upon recommendation of the Committee on Academic Standing and Honors, a student who has been absent for three or more years will have his/her academic standing determined as would a student who transferred to the University at the time of his/her readmission. The previous credits earned at Oakland University will be considered as transfer credits in all computations which determine this student's academic standing.
- b) All other students will have their academic standing determined under whichever of the above stipulations is appropriate.

Appendix II

	F74	W75	F75	W76	F76	W77	F77	W78
Letters of Dismissal	201	132	-	153	265	240	179	267
Appeals	112	22	-	64	156	125	127	125
Rescinded	5	2	-	2	20	13	15	8
DOP	102	14	153	43	95	73	86	56
Defer	0	4	-	0	14	0	0	3
Deny	5	2	-	19	27	39	26	58
Final Dismissals	94	113	66	108	136	154	78	200