

Annual Report
Academic Standing and Honors Committee 1978-79.

In addition to its usual duties of acting on appeals of dismissals (see appendix) and enforcing policy on awarding University honors, the 1978-79 Committee on Academic Standing and Honors considered the following matters:

- (i) the implementation of recently adopted senate legislation on academic forgiveness (see the 1977-78 annual report of this committee) and
- (ii) a re-examination of several factors that affect the work of this committee and dismissal cases in general.

The Committee views academic forgiveness as a privilege and not a right. If the forgiveness policy is to achieve its aim of providing a second opportunity for a student to earn a degree, there must be some evidence that the student has matured and developed a sense of purpose. Accordingly, the Committee has adopted the following procedures for obtaining information about the student before granting forgiveness:

- (a) obtain information from the readmission application,
- (b) interview the student, and
- (c) ascertain the academic progress of the student during his/her first semester enrolled at Oakland after readmission.

This year's evidence indicates that relatively few former students are likely to apply for forgiveness. One application was received in the Fall of 1978 and positive action was taken by this Committee. However, that student did not register for the Winter semester. There were no applications for forgiveness during the Winter term.

On the basis of dismissal cases brought before the Committee this year, the Dismissal Option Program (DOP) appears to be working extremely well. Only a few of the students assigned to DOP violated the conditions of that program. This is to the credit of Cleveland Hurst who is making that program an effective means for salvaging student experiencing academic difficulties.

Members of this Committee have detected a number of glitches in the Computer program for keeping student records. Apparently that program has been pieced together over a period of several years and is not well documented. In a few cases, the program has assigned a student to a dismissal category in a semester immediately following one in which that student was in good standing. While glitches of this type can be removed one by one, the members of the Academic Standing and Honors Committee strongly recommend that a new and thoroughly documented program be developed for keeping student records.

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There continues to be confusion on the part of the faculty and students about the API index. In many cases, it amounts to complete ignorance. There appears to be a commonly held belief that the GPA is the one and only index that measures student academic performance. As a result of this, students continue to get into academic difficulty by taking too many Ns (often on advice from faculty members) or by taking on jobs that significantly reduce study time. A high GPA does not take into account the number of Ns received and these can ultimately lead to dismissal. Based upon the amount of confusion and difficulties created by the existence of two indices, this Committee feels that (a) the API index should be dropped and (b) N grades should be used in computing the GPA. Discussions with members of the University Congress indicated that they are receptive to such a change. A formal proposal for this change will likely be submitted to the University Senate during the Fall term of the 1979-80 academic year.

Respectfully submitted

Louis R. Bragg

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Appendix

	F74	W75	F75	W76	F76	W77	F77	W78	F78	W79
Letters of Dismissal	201	132	-	153	265	240	179	269	150	207
Appelas	112	22	-	64	156	125	127	125	81	97
Rescinded	5	2	-	2	20	13	15	8	1	5
DOP	102	14	153	43	95	73	86	56	48	67
Defer	0	4	-	0	14	0	0	3	9	0
Deny	5	2	-	19	27	39	26	58	27	25
Final Dismissals	94	113	66	108	136	154	78	200	96	135