

*ANNUAL REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE*  
*May 9, 2011*

Committee: Academic Standards  
Chair/Report Preparer: Jaclyn Geller (English)

The committee met monthly to discuss issues submitted by its members.

Below is a summary of the committee's activities, highlighting proposals acted on:

-Early in the year the committee discussed streamlining and clarifying standards for "related requirements" in degree programs. On 10-26 the committee appointed a subcommittee to deal with this matter. The goal was not to impose a single standard across the disciplines but to clarify policies and make them explicit. Accordingly, the subcommittee would ask department chairs for written statements about grade policies in courses related to each major, so that the language in the course-catalog could be clarified.

-The committee discussed the existing grade appeals policy, focusing on the Provost's request that language be clarified, with links on the CCSU website to the requisite forms. On 11-30 a subcommittee was formed to address this issue.

-The committee discussed the university's withdrawal policy. There was a proposed change of allowing a student to withdraw up to the twelfth week of the term, with a limit of five withdrawals in total. No action was taken on this issue.

-On 01-25 the subcommittee on related requirements presented its report. The report proposed using the terms "Requisite" (for classes in the major or minor, offered by the department owning the major and requiring a minimum grade of C-), "Required" (for courses in the major or minor offered by another department and requiring a minimum grade of C-), and "Related" (for classes not in the major or minor but required for the completion of either, with no minimum grade demanded). It was agreed that a letter would be sent to all department chairs requesting that they note their curriculum categories. Their responses would be forwarded to the registrar. **The subcommittee report was approved.**

**-On 2-21 the committee passed a motion to add a Certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in the History Department.**

- The committee revisited the subject of grade appeals. The subcommittee provided the following information: the Provost cannot change a grade without a recommendation from the Grade Appeal Review Board; if an appeal is denied the matter is closed; students cannot use the appeal process to withdraw from a course, nor can they appeal an "incomplete" (which is not a grade). The subcommittee presented the document it had prepared to detail the process of appealing a grade, including preliminary steps (e.g. meeting with instructor, the department chair and the dean), hard-copy documents to bring to the Grade Appeals Review Board should the process move forward, and faculty rights and responsibilities. **The committee approved the grade appeal form on 03-28.**

-The committee discussed the registrar's concern about unclear wording in the language related to the residency requirement, which is now 30 credits. **It voted, on 03-28, to apply the residency requirement retroactively in order to help graduate students who entered CCSU before the policy changed.**

-The committee heard a proposal from the School of Business to remove the 2.5 GPA-requirement for graduation, which its representatives characterized as an artificial barrier to graduation and an unnecessary policy, as admission to the major requires a 2.5 GPA. There was a motion to amend the School of Business' proposal, removing all language from the catalog about graduation and retention, so that it matches university requirements. **The motion passed on 04-26.**

-The committee discussed the subject of course withdrawal, evaluating a new policy in which withdrawal is extended to the twelfth week of the term, with the total number of withdrawals per student limited to five (not counting cases of university withdrawal). The new policy would more effectively protect students who do not know their grades mid-semester. A student seeking to withdraw from a course after the twelfth week of the semester would be required to present documentation of extenuating circumstances. **The policy was approved on 04-26.**