

Standards for Students Committee
2007-2008

Members:

E. Stevens, Chair (Ed. Opportunity Program, Univ. College)
E. Ariyibi (Student)
M. Ferraro (University College)
L. Forrest (Media Resources)
C. Ghosh (Math)
L. Ann Grace (International & Exchange Programs, Univ. College)
D. Jones (Admissions)
G. Kelmes (Criminal Justice)
C. Kenyon (Administrative Liaison: Dean of Students)
A. Lett (Student Resident Assistant)
M. Maclean (Psychology)
K. McGowan (Financial Aid)
R. Pulliam (Equity & Campus Diversity)
W. Rivera (Counseling Center)
M. Savino (Disability Services),
A. Marie Sokol (Chemistry)

Charge:

In support of Buffalo State College's vision, mission, and core values, the committee on Standards for Students shall review and recommend policies and procedures dealing with but not limited to:

1. *The admission and readmission of all students.*
2. *The retention of all students in regard to academic policies, student conduct, and institutional programs and initiatives.*
3. *The graduation of all students*

Name of Chair submitting report: Elizabeth Stevens

Anticipated vacancies in 2008-9 for committee members:

- 2 student vacancies. Each served one year.
- 7 vacancies are expected of those who have served 2 or more years
- 4 members new this year are expected to return for 08-09

Approximate Number of Meetings:

- The committee met 7 times during the 07-08 academic year.
- Further discussion took place through email

Initial Committee Goal

Create a formal process for the submission of issues to the committee. This process is as follows:

1. Issue is submitted to committee chair or senate office via submission form.
2. Form is forwarded to both the senate chair and the provost for review.
3. The provost reviews the issue in conjunction with Academic Council in order to assist with background information and developing a possible set of recommendations for the issue. The committee is then free to modify the recommendations, ask for further clarification, and have an open dialog with the provost as to the most appropriate avenue for addressing the issue.
4. The senate chair discusses the issue with the provost and the chair of the committee in order to determine the charge.
5. Once the committee has been formally charged with the issue, the submission form is forwarded to all committee members to begin discussion.
6. Committee members meet to discuss the submission.
7. The issue, if appropriate is brought before the senate.

This process has streamlined the work of the committee and has provided a tracking record for the progress of each issue. It has, more importantly, opened dialog with the provost and created a process that asks more of the submitter, thereby making the committee's work more efficient than previously.

Charges and Outcomes

- 1. Academic Advisement:** Work in conjunction with the provost Academic Council to participate in the review of the progress of academic advisement since its policy implementation in 03-04. Approval has been secured to give a survey of advisement effectiveness to students, which will be discussed in a working task force for advisement. A hopeful visit by consultants from NACADA is planned for fall 08.
- 2. General Education Waivers:** Extend general education waiver guidelines to BA/BS degree-holding transfer students, as is done for AA/AS degree holders. This motion is supported by Academic Council and Academic Standards and is up for action during the May 08 senate meeting.
- 3. Declaring a Major/Credit Hours:** Reconsidering the credit hour limit by which students have to declare a major. This issue is related to financial

aid policy, has been reviewed by the provost, and is in committee discussion.

- 4. Credit hour limit for probation students:** Creation of college policy to limit the number of credit hours that students on academic probation can take, which exceptions for financial aid needs, program progress, etc. that can be obtained through student's academic advisor or assistant to the dean. Issue will go into further research over the summer and come back to the senate in fall 08.
- 5. Admission Requirements for International Students:** We currently only accept the TOEFL exam and it is recommended that we move to also use the IELTS. Up for action at May 08 meeting.

Predicted new issues for fall 08:

- Examine the practice of mandatory midterm grades for all freshmen and students on academic probation so that more grades are submitted by faculty and that the submission process be streamlined.
- Standardization of class levels to reinforce the idea that students should be taking 15 credits per semester to obtain their degrees in 4 years. Standardization would be: Sophomore = 30 credits, J = 60 hours, Sr = 90.

Goals for 08-09:

- Continue using new submission process via formal form,
- Continue open dialog with provost on issues.
- Continue the senate forum for open discussion of issues.
- Improve representation of faculty members and senate members on committee.