

Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions Annual Report 2017-2018

Committee Membership:

Elected

Susan Rathbun-Grubb	Library & Information Science (2018) (chair)
Ernest Wiggins	Journalism (2018)
Conor Harrison	Geography (2019)
Alexander Yankovsky	Earth & Ocean Sciences (2019)
Brett Altschul	Physics & Astronomy (2020)
MVS Chandrashekar	Engineering & Computing (2020)

Appointed

Scott Verzyl, ex-officio	Admissions
Aaron Marterer, ex-officio	Registrar's Office
Shane Bello	Student
Justin Mellish	Student

New elected members with terms beginning May 2018

Daniella Cook	Education (2021)
Hunter Gardner	Languages, Literatures, and Culture (2021)

Committee Meetings:

September 22, 2017
October 20, 2017
November 17, 2017
January 19, 2018
February 16, 2018
April 20, 2018

In addition to these meetings, the committee used email communication for discussion and voting.

Major Business:

1. Honors List Policy

The Assistant and Associate Deans' Council proposed the following change to the Honor's List Policy: to remove the Dean's List freshman GPA threshold of 3.25. The justification for this change is that with the increased number of USC students bringing in AP, IB, and Cambridge exam credit, as well as dual enrollment credit, first-year students are often classified as sophomores after their first semester of enrollment. This has caused frustration for both students and parents who feel that the 3.25 honors threshold should apply to first-year

students who are classified as sophomores. This proposal recommended that all students regardless of student classification (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior) must achieve a minimum semester GPA of 3.5 to qualify for Dean's Honors. On October 20, 2017, the committee voted to send the proposal to the full Faculty Senate for consideration. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the change on November 1, 2017.

2. Change to the Withdrawal Policy

The Assistant and Associate Deans' Council proposed a change to the Withdrawal Policy - to change the WF deadline from 50% to 72% of the semester. The justification for this change is that around the current WF Period (50% Part of the Term), many students may not have earned enough course grades to make an informed decision about withdrawal (not all courses provide midterms or publish midterm grades). Moving the WF deadline to 72% of the Part of Term (from 8 to 10 weeks) would allow a student more time to gauge academic success, and if improvements are warranted, utilize campus support services – thus, preventing premature withdrawal. On April 20, 2018, the committee voted to send the proposal to the full Faculty Senate for consideration. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the changes on June 6, 2018.

3. Student Appeals

The Committee considered two student appeals in academic year 2017-2018. A student appealed a suspension decision from the College of Social Work and the Committee overturned that decision in the student's favor. The Committee considered a student appeal of a grievance decision from the College of Engineering and Computing, and upheld the College's decision.

4. Election of Chair for 2018-19

The committee elected Brett Altschul as the new chair.

5. Annual Reports of the College Committees

As mandated on page 14 the *USC Faculty Manual* (revised June 10, 2016), each college is required to file an annual report with the University Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions documenting the number of petitions received and the disposition of those petitions. The Committee has solicited these annual reports and will publish a compilation of the results once all reports are received and reviewed.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Rathbun-Grubb, Chair