

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
Committee on Course & Standing

Minutes for the meeting held on December 3rd, 2010

The Committee on Course and Standing met on December 3rd, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in L-422, the Counseling Office, conference room.

Those in attendance were as follows:

Ms. Gina Capozzoli - Counseling Centre, Chair.

Dr. Hemraj-Benny, Chemistry Department, Dr. Belle Birchfield, Elect & Comp. Engineering Prof. Emily Gordon, Basic Skills, Dr. Todd Holden, Physics Department.

Unable to physically attend the meeting, Prof. Tina Bayer called during the meeting to speak to the CCS chair. She had previously received an informal document outlining the issue at hand, and they spoke by phone as to what the discussions were up until that point. Prof. Bayer felt confident in providing the chair with a verbal vote, but will come to the Counseling Center office on Monday, December 6th by 3:00 p.m. to complete a written ballot.

V.P. Karen Steele very kindly accepted to be present to help with certain clarification of the new policy.

Excused:

Prof. Tina Bayer, Nursing Department Dr. Lisa Mertz, Health Phys. Ed. & Dance, Prof. Christina Manzo, Business Department, Prof. Neera Mohess, Library, Prof. James Timbilla, Biology Department.

Administration Representatives:

Ms. Meera Chowdhry Committee Secretary

Discussion:

An Emergency meeting of the Committee on Course and Standing was convened for the purposes of voting on the policy being implemented regarding the 'NC' grades. The (2) student representatives were invited to attend and also vote for the policy decision. There was no response from one, and the other student member was unable to attend at the time designated.

Presently, NC grades are being assigned to the students who have successfully finished the remedial coursework (MA-005, MA-010, BE-112, BE-122, BE-205 and BE-226) but have yet to pass the CUNY Exit from Remediation exam. Students may not progress to credit-bearing classes before the related CUNY Exit from Remediation Test has been passed.

Under the new policy, the “NC” grade would be valid only for a year from the time they were assigned, after which they would change to ‘R’ grades and the students would no longer be allowed to take the CUNY Exit exam without repeating the remedial course in question.

Once given an “NC” grade, students are to enroll in a required workshop in order to take the CUNY Exit from Remediation Test again. It has been experienced in the past that the students who do not immediately attempt the workshop have difficulties passing it. They may need refreshing on their skills or may be completely out of touch. In such situations, students continue to take the required workshops being offered, free of charge, numerous times. It has been observed that in some cases, the 20 hour workshops do not help some students as much as they would benefit from the remedial courses, which are a semester long in duration.

At this point, there is no grade assigned for the workshop; therefore, there is no limit on how many times a student could sign-up for that. Students can also choose to skip semesters before enrolling in a workshop.

The new policy would benefit the students who receive the NC grade a) by motivating them to take the workshop immediately in order for them to avoid an ‘R’ grade and b) in light of their successful passing of the Exit Exam immediately, students could proceed on to the credit bearing courses sooner.

Prof. Gordon during the meeting apprised the Committee members that were present of the implication the ‘NC’ grades were having on the Departments. In her opinion, with the new policy students could be helped in a much better way since the problems with individual students could be pinned down. Departments could be made more aware as to whether the students have problems of test anxiety or if they would need more preparation through classroom intervention.

Presently, ST100 courses also receive ‘NC’ grades however; with ST 100 there is no Exit Exam nor do the NC or R grades affect the students’ ability to further progress into credit bearing courses. Students are to enroll and take ST within their first year. The grading of ‘NC’ vs “R” for the ST 100 course would be discussed further within their Department and the subsequent Committee on Course & Standing Meetings.

As per clarification from V. P. Steele, to ensure all students are aware of the new policy, the students who have ‘NC’ grades before the implementation of the policy would be notified about their options. Based on recommendations from Course and Standing, students would have to pass the Exit Exam within a year from the Spring 2011 semester.

The Committee Members voted unanimously in support of the policy as 'yes' with the following changes to the text:

**All students who have an 'NC' grade before Spring 2011 will have until spring 2012 to satisfy the NC grade requirement.*