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**QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

**COMMITTEE ON COURSE AND STANDING**

To: Dr. Joel Kuszai, Secretary, Academic Senate Steering Committee  
From: Dr. Steven Dahlke, Chairperson, Committee on Course and Standing  
Subject: Proposal to Remove the “Academic Alert” standing for QCC Students.  
Date: April 24, 2014

The Committee on Course and Standing sends the following recommendation to the Academic Senate:

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PROPOSAL: To remove the Probationary code of “Academic Alert” Standing for QCC students. (Effective Fall 2014)

Whereas, the Committee on Course and Standing, at their February 28th meeting, voted unanimously to remove the Probationary code of ‘Academic Alert’ from Academic Standing for QCC students;

and whereas the vote was suggested by VP Steele and Provost Reiner at a joint meeting with the Admissions and CCS committees on January 31;

and whereas statistical data has shown that the majority of students placed on Academic Alert do not achieve good academic standing nor do they persist to graduate;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Academic Senate adopts as College Policy that the probationary code of “Academic Alert” for Queensborough Community College students, be removed effective fall 2014.

**RATIONALE:**

Some years ago the College adopted a new probation category, “Academic Alert,” for new students who earned low GPAs their first semester. These students were not put on probation right away, but were notified they were in academic difficulty. (Students on probation have one semester to bring their grades up, or they are academically dismissed at the end of the following term.) In recent years, a significant number of students with very low GPAs after multiple semesters of attendance have been appealing to college committees (CCS, Admissions, and SAP), causing those committee members to ask why the students had been allowed to continue enrollment (and likely use up financial aid) when they were not making academic progress.

During the Fall 2013 term the Retention Management Team reviewed data on the effectiveness of the Academic Alert status, and discovered that it has not been having the desired effect. In fact, of the 1,413 students placed on Academic Alert in Fall 2011, after four semesters, 63.9%

have a GPA of 0-0.99 and another 26% have a GPA of 1 - <2. In other words, only 10% of these students had at least a 2.0 GPA after four semesters.

GPA's for 1,413 students placed on Academic Alert in Fall 2011, as of Fall 2013

GPA	Percentage Academic Alert students
0.0 – 0.99	63.9%
1.0 - 1.99	26%
2.0 - 2.99	8.9%
3.0 - 3.99	1.2%

Further, of the original 1,403 students:

- 199 had at some point been dismissed.
- 287 were enrolled at QCC in Fall 2013 with the following GPA distribution:
  - 0 – 0.99 – 61%
  - 1 - 1.99 – 29.3%
  - 2 - 2.99 – 7.7%
  - 3 - 3.99 – 2.1%

**The Retention Management Team presented the information to the Committee on Course and Standing, which had originally presented the Academic Alert category to the Senate for approval. The recommendation following discussion was that the status of Academic Alert be eliminated. Instead, students who perform below standard during their first term will be placed on Probation, according to the College's previous policy. At the same time, the letters sent from CCS to students on Probation have been revised to call attention to the seriousness of the situation and to encourage students to take deliberate action, and seek advice and other support services as needed. In addition, the Registrar's Office has initiated an intensive outreach to all students currently on Academic Alert and Probation, through a required Academic Success Workshop before students can register. The office will be tracking the progress of these students.**