During the Spring 2008 semester, the Academic Standards Committee met nine times. Two spring meetings are still planned and three will be scheduled for Summer 2008. As in the past, much of our work consisted of reviewing student petitions. The most common requests related to withdrawal from classes in previous years (typically due to medical emergencies or family problems) or late withdrawal from Fall 2007 or Spring 2008 courses. A few requests for re-enrollments in Summer 2007 classes due to having been purged because of non-payment of fees or non-filing of overload petitions were processed.

The committee requested that one student’s petition be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for possible fraudulent use of a student ID and PIN. The petitioner claimed his wallet had been stolen and he had been enrolled in a Fall 2007 course for which he received an F (due to non-attendance). However, he was being dunned by UNLV for payment. The issue now lies with the Office of Student Conduct to determine whether the student’s claim is valid.

A concern regarding academic standards in non-degree granting programs surfaced at the April 17th meeting. A student enrolled in university-credit courses being used as part of a requirement to maintain employment with a non-UNLV entity has been suspended due to low GPA and GPB. Committee members were concerned that cooperative programs are being developed in which the non-UNLV partner simply requires “passing grades.” Since “D” is a passing grade, it’s quite possible for students to earn grades that put them in the position of being suspended. The concern has been forwarded to the Provost’s office.

At the same meeting an issue concerning “catalog of graduation” arose. At the present time, when students apply for graduation, they indicate one of three catalogs: a) the one in effect at initial matriculation, b) the one in effect when final major was declared, or c) the one in effect at graduation. None of the catalogs may be more than 10 years old. The issue came up because a student wishes to return to UNLV this summer to complete her program within the next year. She originally attended UNLV in 1988 (catalog has expired) and declared her final major in 1993 (catalog has expired). The program advisors have supported her request that she be allowed to use the 2006-2008 catalog (presumably due to extensive changes in the program in the 2008-2010 catalog). ASC members suggested students should be allowed a fourth choice of catalog: the one in effect at the time of their return to coursework. The question of who sets the catalog policy has also been forwarded to the Provost’s office.

Attendance (voting members):
Alpert, P. (Health Sci) Attended 6 out of 9 meetings
Bernatis, B. (FA) Attended 6 out of 9 meetings
Davis, Deanna (Outrch) Attended 7 out of 9 meetings
Epstein, W. (Urb. Af.) Attended 6 out of 9 meetings
Juneau, Gayle  Attended 6 out of 9 meetings
Lange, A. (Regis)  Attended 9 out of 9 meetings
Kim, Y. (Eng)  Attended 8 out of 9 meetings
Marwah, R. (Univ Col)  Attended 9 out of 9 meetings
Simon, Adam (Sci)  Attended 9 out of 9 meetings
Smith, Christine (Law)  Attended 0 out of 9 meetings
Spalding, Liz (Educ)  Attended 3 out of 9 meetings (surgeries)
Stahura, K. (Hotel)  Attended 6 out of 9 meetings
Usnick, Virginia (chair)  Attended 9 out of 9 meetings
Grad Stud. Asso  Attended 0 out of 9 meetings
First Undergrad  Attended 0 out of 9 meetings
Second Undergrad  Attended 0 out of 9 meetings

Attendance (non-voting members):
Davis, D. (Outreach)  Attended 5 out of 10 meetings
Pratt, S. (FS Office)  Attended 10 out of 10 meetings
Sunata, C. (Stud. Enrl.)  Attended 4 out of 10 meetings

Respectfully submitted by:

Virginia Usnick, Chair