




Memorandum

To: Faculty Senate
Seton Hall University

From: Katia Passerini, Ph.D.

Provost and Executive Vice President

Re: *From the Provost – Memo re Resolution on Dean's List Requirements
2021-FS-35*

Date: February 8, 2022

We are in receipt of 2021-FS-35, *Resolution on Dean's List Requirements*, which was approved at the December 17, 2021, meeting of the Faculty Senate. We agree in principle with your concern that the current articulation of the requirements making students ineligible for Dean's List if they have withdrawn from a class during the relevant semester may have the unintended effect of disqualifying some otherwise qualified students who have felt compelled to withdraw from one or more classes. Yet the proposed change does not fully address the complexity of the process, managed centrally by Enrollment Services.

We encourage the APC to work with Enrollment Services to see if there is a workable solution that will consider the concern about the large number of late course withdrawals, inequity for certain populations—for example science majors who may not withdraw from one course without withdrawing from a co-requisite, and our present ability to track activity in previous semesters. In doing so, it will be important to consider that although our policy asks that withdrawals in the last eight weeks of the semester only be allowed under “exceptional circumstances” this standard has allowed nearly one half of withdrawals to occur after the deadline.

Additional clarity would be needed on a few other issues. First, does the Faculty mean to include withdrawals and incomplete withdrawals? Second, the Dean's List eligibility currently requires completion of all coursework for the term; allowing WD grades in a term would eliminate this requirement and create a need to define a minimum “completed” credit threshold the student needs to successfully meet to maintain Dean's List eligibility. We would want this addressed with our goals of efficient degree completion in mind. Third, if there are financial aid considerations, the consequences of such a change need to be understood further. Finally, in which semester should the new criteria take effect?