The Academic Standing and Honors Committee plays the two roles indicated by its name. In its Academic Standing role, the committee meets each term with representatives from the Office of Academic Advising and Undergraduate Studies to assess LA&J undergraduates who have encountered academic difficulties. The criteria for various indications were revised by the committee two academic years ago (academic year 2013-2014). One goal of that revision was to make these criteria more precise. Another goal was to implement a system of "Academic Alerts"; these alerts are milder than placement on "Academic Probation". These revised criteria have significantly stream-lined the committee’s Academic Standing proceedings; they have thus enabled the committee to focus most of its discussions on the most problematic cases of students being given Academic Suspension or Permanent Academic Withdrawal. The committee met in its Academic Standing capacity on January 12, 2015 and again on May 28, 2015.

In its Honors role, the committee reviews the academic records of graduating students to determine their eligibility for Summa cum Laude Honors. For the graduation in Feb 2015, the list of candidates was small enough that the committee only conferred by email, prior to the meeting on Feb 4 in which those students meeting the criteria for Summa were presented for approval by the A&S faculty. For graduation in May 2015, the committee met on May 13, 2015 to consider the full list of Summa candidates; the outcome of this meeting was then reported for approval by the A&S faculty in the Honors Meeting of May 14, 2015.

The committee also had a policy meeting on November 19, 2014. In that meeting, the committee discussed revising the Summa (and Magna) forms distributed to the departments. These changes were mostly implemented for the graduation of Spring 2015 (though the revised Magna form - and some small changes to the text of the Summa form - won’t be used until Fall 2015).

In this policy meeting, the committee discussed - in an open-ended way - various thoughts on revisions to the Summa criteria. A recurring topic of concern – both in the November meeting, and in the Honors meeting of May 2015 – is variation of criteria for Summa between different academic departments and programs. Some of these concerns were mentioned aloud in discussions in the A&S Faculty Honors meeting. In its Honors meeting of May 2015, the committee indicated that it hopes to revisit these topics in Fall 2015.