

*Minutes*  
Senate Scholastic Standards Committee  
April 14, 2009

Members: (attending members in bold): **John Clausen (Chair)**, John Bennett, Kay Bloomberg, Scott Brown, **Francine DeFranco**, Gerald Gianutsos, **Lynne Goodstein**, Lawrence Gramling, **Douglas Hamilton**, **Katrina Higgins**, Janna Mahfoud, Yuhang Rong, Jeffrey von Munkwitz-Smith, **David Wagner**, **Robert Weiner**, Han Zhang.  
Guests: **Gay Douglas**.

1. The Minutes from March 17, 2009 were approved.

Old Business

A. Religious Holidays

Ms. Gay Douglas from the Dean of Students office was an invited guest of the SSC. Ms. Douglas described problems with the Senate statement of class activities during religious holidays. The experience of the Dean of Students office is that students typically do not become concerned about religious holidays until they are approaching. They are not thinking about such holidays during the first two to three weeks of the semester. That office would typically grant a final's exemption for religious holidays without the suggested warning. She further mentioned that significant religious holidays are listed in the undergraduate catalog (p. 3 bottom). A final suggestion was that putting appropriate religious holidays on a web site would be of great help.

An email from Denielle Burl to Hedley Freake was shared with the committee. She brought attention to Connecticut General Statute §10a-50 which addresses the role of institutions of higher education and attendance due to religious activities. The policy approved by the senate is in conflict with that statute, which follows:

**Sec. 10a-50. (Formerly Sec. 10-334g). Absence of students due to religious beliefs.** No person shall be expelled from or refused admission as a student to an institution of higher education for the reason that he is unable, because the tenets of his religion forbid secular activity on a particular day or days or at a particular time of day, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study or work requirements on such particular day or days or at such time of day. Any student in an institution of higher education who is unable, because of such reason, to attend classes on a particular day or days or at a particular time of day shall be excused from any examination or any study or work assignments on such particular day or days or at such particular time of day. It shall be the responsibility of the faculty and of the administrative officials of each institution of higher education to make available to each student who is absent from school because of such reason an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study or work requirements which he has missed because of such absence on any particular day or days or at any particular time of day. No special fees of any kind shall be charged to the student for making available to such student such equivalent opportunity. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his availing himself of the provisions of this section. For the

purposes of this section, "institution of higher education" shall mean any of the schools comprising the state system of higher education, as defined in section 10a-1.

(P.A. 75-367, S. 1.)

History: Sec. 10-334g transferred to Sec. 10a-50 in 1983 pursuant to reorganization of higher education system.

The SSC agreed to suggest changes to the senate policy for possible action at the next Senate meeting. D. Wagner and F. DeFranco volunteered to draft language for committee consideration and possible senate action in May.

#### B. INTD/UNIV.

J. Clausen presented draft language for the senate to suggest to the BOT a change in the Functions of the Divisions by offering UNIV courses to conform to practice. The language was modified somewhat. The SSC will conduct an email vote on the suggested change in the By-Laws, as follows:

#### Proposal to Recommend By-Laws Change to the Board of Trustees

##### Background:

On January 28, 2008 the senate approved a motion to revise the procedures for reviewing and administering INTD courses. These revised procedures called for the creation of UNIV courses that would be owned by programs that are not based in Schools/Colleges (e.g. Student Affairs) and the creation of the University Interdisciplinary Courses Committee (UICC). Subsequent to the passage of this motion, the authority by the Divisions to teach such courses came into question as currently stated in the University By-laws, even though such courses have been taught for years. Therefore, the purpose of this motion is to suggest to the Board of Trustees that they modify their By-Laws to specifically allow this practice.

##### Motion:

The senate recommends that the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees modify Article XII 4. of its Laws, By-Laws and Rules of the University of Connecticut as follows (addition shown as underlined):

LAWS, BY-LAWS AND RULES OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
Revised 11-18-08

#### Article XII - The Divisions

##### 4. *Functions*

The divisions as administrative units are non-legislative in character and do not administer curricula or determine course offerings. They are units whose programs and services cross-section the University.

The Divisions may offer UNIV courses provided they are reviewed and approved by the University Interdisciplinary Courses Committee and the Senate Courses and Curriculum Committee.

It is the function of each division (a) to integrate its program with the general program of the University and to foster effective coordination of effort, and (b) to secure the safety and proper inventory of all University property assigned to it for instructional, research, or service purposes.

### New Business

#### A. Minors

An email from J. Bennett was shared with the SSC regarding discussion of minors restrictions, transcript, and diplomas notations. Apparently, there is some discussion in one program to offer minors but only to a program's majors. Specific questions were: [1] Could Scholastic Standards consider the INTENT of the minor and if it is encourage students outside the major, change the catalog wording to reflect that minors are indeed not to be restricted to students within the major. [2] Could Scholastic Standards investigate the appropriateness of getting concentrations listed on transcripts as is currently done for minors? [3] Could Scholastic Standards investigate the appropriateness of getting both minors and concentrations listed on diplomas?

The committee agreed to review the issue and will discuss further at a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

#### **Next meetings/locations:**

Thurs., April 30 – Wilbur Cross, room 110