

Scholastic Standards

Minutes

Thursday, November 6, 2014

Hall Dorm

1:30-3:00pm

Attendees: Jill Livingston; Karen Bresciano; David Clokey; Robin Coulter; Joseph Crivello; Hedley Freake; Gerald Gianutsos; Larry Gramling; Katrina Higgins; Tom Recchio; Patricia M. Szarek (on behalf of Jennifer Lease Butts); Eric Schultz; Peter Tribuzio (via phone)

Absent: Larry Armstrong; Bethany Brown; Stuart Brown; Jennifer Lease Butts; Susanna Cowan; Lauren Digrazia; Carolyn Teschke

Agenda:

- 1) Minutes from October 30, 2014 were approved
- 2) Future meetings:
We have 2 remaining meeting this semester on November 13th and December 11th. Larry Gramling will facilitate the discussion on December 11th in Jill's absence. Jill may not be able to attend the Senate meeting on December 8th; a volunteer is needed to present the motion on Semester Examinations and Final Assessments for vote.
- 3) Wrap-up of discussion on student athlete attendance (with guest Bill Berensten)

Discussion:

The committee heard the concerns of Dr. Berensten regarding student athlete absences from courses and the pressures exerted on him to accommodate absences, as well as other affordances provided to student athletes in the academic realm. The committee discussed these concerns in the context of the Senate and its By-Laws policy on Class Attendance (II.E.11)

Decisions: Dr. Berensten will provide SSSC with documentation supporting his concerns. Jill will contact CIAC to ask for information about travel schedules—what are the windows given when students travel (eg. If students travel to the west coast, how many days prior to competition will they depart/return.)

- 4) Recommended changes to Semester Examinations and Final Assessments (with guest Desmond McCaffrey)

This motion was brought forth for discussion at the November 3rd Senate meeting and will be presented for vote at the December 8th Senate meeting. Three changes were suggested to the motion.

During the semester or term, examinations shall be held only during regularly scheduled class periods. Permission for exceptions to this rule ~~can~~ may be granted by the deans or designees of the school or college in which the course is offered . {Suggestion 1: Add language that indicates when this action must be completed by.}

Ex. “prior to the start of the semester for which the exception has been requested.” } Sections of Courses for which such exception has been granted shall carry a footnote to that effect in the published Directory of Classes. {Suggestion 2: “Directory of Classes” needs to be changed to “Schedule of Classes”} In the event of student absences from in-class assessments examinations given during the semester, decisions regarding possible make-up examinations shall be the prerogative of the instructor.

~~In all undergraduate courses the final assessments must be due at the times scheduled by the university during the week set aside for final assessments, and at no other times, so as not to compromise instructional time at the end of the semester. In the case of in-class and other proctored final examinations, these examinations must be given in the places and at the times scheduled by the University. {Suggestion 3: Add language for online courses here—does the current language address online courses, for which faculty may want to give extended deadlines.} For all in-class final examinations and for all final assessments that are assigned during the last week of classes, the university’s bunched final examination policy will apply.~~

Suggested language:

In the case of online courses, final examinations must be given on the day and, if applicable, the place and time scheduled by the University. All dates and times are Eastern Standard Time (EST.)

Or:

In the case of online courses, final examinations must be given on the day and, when applicable, the place and time scheduled by the University. All dates and times are Eastern Standard Time (EST.)

Discussion: Specifying Eastern Standard Time is not necessary. The language must reference online examinations, rather than online courses. It must also be broad enough to encompass the variety of testing options for online courses and those taken at the Testing Center or via Proctor U. The language would be improved if it refers to a singular examination—“the examination must be given in the place and at the time scheduled by the University.”

Decision: Due to time constraints, this topic will be presented for further discussion and decisions at the next SSSC meeting on November 13th. The committee will also discuss the 2-hour window for final examinations at an upcoming meeting.

- 5) How do we refer to Dean of Students Office in By-Laws...can language better reflect structures at the regional campuses?

Decision: Due to time constraints, this topic will be presented for further discussion and decisions at the next SSSC meeting on November 13th.