

Scholastic Standards

Minutes

February 11, 2015

Attendees: Lawrence Armstrong, Karen Bresciano, Jennifer Lease Butts, , David Clokey, Bennett Cognato, Susanna Cowan, Joseph Crivello, Lauren DiGrazia, Gerald Gianutsos, Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Jill Livingston, Eric Schultz, Carol Teschke, Thomas Recchio

Absent: Stuart Brown, Hedley Freake, Robin Coulter (sabbatical)

1. Minutes from January 28, 2015 were approved.
2. A decision was made to use a laptop and projector to display proposed By-laws changes at future meetings.
3. By-laws motion for *Admissions*, with guest Nathan Fuerst

Discussion: The Admissions section of the By-Laws includes prefatory language and 6 subsections. SSSC had previously worked in concert with Nathan, who consulted with BGS and Wayne Locust, to revise subsections: 1. Minimum Requirements, 2. Admission of Gifted Students, and 3. New England Regional Program. Subsection 6. Unclassified Undergraduate Students had previously been worked on by SSSC only. At the meeting, SSSC reviewed all subsections under Admissions, including those previously reviewed, as well as sections: 4. Transfer of Credit and 5. Advanced Standing for Superior High School Students. Edits were made throughout. Two sections requiring more extensive editing will be worked on outside committee and will be brought forth at a future meeting for vetting.

Actions: Jill will edit the Admissions By-laws to include agreed upon changes. Nathan will further revise section 4. Transfer of Credit, keeping distinct the difference between transfer students and transfer credits. Jill will work with Gillian Thorne and Lauren to revise Advanced Standing for Superior High School Students, which will address ECE and be moved to section 6. Unclassified Undergraduate Students.

4. By-laws motion for *Adding or Dropping Courses*

SSSC had previously considered the advantages of designating time in days v weeks and a decision was made to preserve portions of the current By-Law, including designation of time in weeks, that are effectively articulating policy, while targeting changes to address the lack of clarity in assignation of W's during the 2nd-9th weeks. However, Lauren revealed that it is a national standard to refer to the 10th day of the semester. The challenge and intricacies of representing days v weeks was discussed, including such issues as whether classes are held on weekends and whether they factor into day counts. Further revision to this section is needed. Also, the 9 week deadline for adding/dropping courses was considered in relation to mid-term exams and the negative impact it has on classes when students drop late in the semester. These later drops affect exam scaling, group projects, and other instructional activities.

Actions: Jill will redraft the *Adding or Dropping Courses* section to reflect agreed upon changes. Karen will discuss shortening the add/drop period with Student Welfare. This will be put on a future agenda.

Next meeting February 25:

By-laws 11.E.9 Changes of Course Grades. An audit in spring 2014 noted that there is currently no timeframe for change of course grades

By-laws change to Semester Examinations and Final Assessments. We will consider the designation that "each examination period shall be two hours in length"--we will need to take into account differences for summer sessions and the needs of students with disabilities

JML 2/24/15