

## Senate Scholastic Standards Committee 2016/2017

Meeting Minutes 11/16/2016

9.00 – 10.30 AM

Senate Conference Room, Hall Dorm

Members present: Karen Bresciano, Stuart Brown (by phone), David Clokey, Susanna Cowan, Lauren DiGrazia, Erika Elechicon, Hedley Freake (chair), Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Jill Livingston, Steven Park, Gina Stuart.

Guests: Monica van Beusekom, Patricia Szarek

1. The committee welcomed Erika Elechicon as a member, as a representative from USG.
2. The minutes from 10/19/16 were approved as worthy of repeat reading.
3. Hedley Freake reported on the meeting of Senate committee chairs with the SEC, where he delivered the policy on Academic Adjustments, for consideration by the SCCC, informed the SEC that no changes were needed in the academic dismissal policy to cover expedited appeals and announced that Residential Life had been informed that dismissed students should not be housed on campus prior to readmission. He also reported that the SSSC's comments on the charge from the SEC to investigate adding non-class days in October were discussed at length, including that the Dec 12 deadline for reporting was unrealistic. The SEC had received these comments and suggested that the SSC table the issue until the SEC reconsidered their charge. Karen Bresciano (SEC member) reported that at a subsequent meeting the SEC decided to ask the SSC to look at the issue particularly as it affected laboratory classes. She also reported that the Senate Student Welfare Committee was meeting on Dec 8 (9.30-11) with the directors of Counseling and Mental Health Services and Student Health Services, where the topic of student stress in the fall semester would be on the agenda. SSC members were invited to attend and Hedley, Lauren DiGrazia and Susanna Cowan indicated that they would. Discussion of laboratory classes was deferred until next semester, after this meeting.
4. The SSC will continue to meet in the Senate Conference room since the suggested alternative has insufficient capacity.
5. Katrina Higgins briefly outlined issues associated with the length of the Add/Drop period, primarily that allowing students to add 2 weeks into the semester puts them at academic risk. This issue will return to the SSC in the spring.
6. Katrina also asked for faculty volunteers for the Academic Dismissal Appeal Committee, a process which is now university-wide. Joe Crivello has served before and will continue. Larry Gramling agreed to serve, meeting the need for a non-CLAS voice.
7. The committee welcomed Monica van Beusekom and Patty Szarek from Enrichment Programs to discuss the issue of undergraduate students taking graduate courses. Their prime concern was one of fairness since the highest grade undergraduate students can

receive is an A, even if their work warrants an A+ grade. The problem is compounded by language on the back of the transcript that indicates a grading scale for graduate courses that includes A+, thereby potentially miscommunicating the performance of an undergraduate student. This could be solved by adding clarifying language to the transcript but it raised the larger question of why different scales are used at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Hedley will suggest to the SEC that we initiate a conversation with the Graduate School on this topic.

A parallel issue relates to graduate students taking undergraduate courses that do not contribute towards their degree programs. An audit finding has suggested that this may contravene the conditions of their graduate assistantships. Mona Lucas will have more details on the audit finding.

The committee also discussed a memo from Pat Jepson (CAHNR) questioning the blanket prohibition on transfer of graduate courses taken externally into a student's undergraduate plan of study. Sometimes students leave one or two courses short of degree completion and are not able to use grad courses taken subsequently to complete their degree. This prohibition is one of several listed by Transfer Admissions. Gina Stuart provided history for these rules that originated in 1979 with the SSC. It appears that they have been revised at different times subsequently and it seems appropriate for the SSC to consider them now. With respect to transferring graduate courses to satisfy undergraduate requirements it would seem reasonable to allow the schools and colleges to determine whether it is appropriate for the degrees that they offer. Reviewing the whole list of transfer prohibitions will be added to the list of future business for this committee.

8. Language from the Education Abroad office concerning the requirement for all courses taken abroad as a UConn student on the official transcript was reviewed. A number of issues were identified and Susanna volunteered to perform an initial editing job and bring it back to the committee.
9. A number of other items of future business were briefly discussed. The bunched finals issue has not been formally brought forward. Karen reported that request for exam rescheduling were greatly reduced this semester and so it is possible that changes already introduced have solved the problem. She will report back after the exam period is complete. The issue of non-residency after dismissal has been dealt with and can be removed from the list. Susanna reported that she has not yet undertaken her review of the by-laws relative to summer session and intersession courses but that it should be included on the future business list. Finally, there is a perception among faculty that there is a rapid increase in requests for academic accommodations. The committee will get data on this and perhaps invite Donna Korbelt to a future meeting. One concern is that some faculty do not understand their legal obligations in this area.
10. The meeting adjourned at 10.30 AM.