

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee 2016/2017

Meeting Minutes 4/5/2017

10.00 – 11.30 AM

Senate Conference Room, Hall Dorm

Members present: Brian Aneskievich, Karen Bresciano, Stuart Brown (by phone), Susanna Cowan, Joe Crivello, Hedley Freake (chair), Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Jennifer Lease Butts, Jill Livingston, David Wagner.

Marianne Buck attended for Lauren DiGrazia.

1. The minutes from 3/22/17 were approved with correction of a typo.
2. Hedley Freake announced that Veronica Makowsky had agreed to chair the committee next year.
3. The committee continued discussion of the by-law changes relevant to summer sessions. Lauren DiGrazia was away at a meeting but sent some suggestions for language changes in the remaining third section. The clarification that credit limits applied to sessions and not courses was agreed. It was determined that language to cover courses that run outside of sessions was not needed in the by-laws. It was agreed that this collection of by-law changes should be put together in the form of a motion that could be presented to the Senate and formally approved by the committee at its next meeting.
4. Jen Lease Butts, Lauren and Hedley had met again with Caroline McGuire from the Office of Undergraduate Research to work on language for the undergraduate research courses. Jen presented their recommendations to the committee. It was pointed out that "Special Topics" was a misnomer for the intent of that course, which is to pilot new courses. However, given that this designation appears on the transcript, it was determined that titles such as "Pilot Course" or "Course in Development" were not appropriate and that the existing name should be retained. Holly Fitch noted that the greater clarity resulting from these more precise course designations could be helpful to IACUC in determining training requirements for undergraduate students and who should be covered by the Animal Handlers Program. It was decided that information on S/U and honors versions of these courses should be indicated at the foot of the table rather than included within it. Hedley agreed to clean up the document so that it could be passed over to the SEC/SCCC.
5. There was brief discussion of the reading days issue. Karen Bresciano shared a survey that had been put together by the SWC probing faculty views on final exams. She and Katrina Higgins had added some questions to the end of it on reading days. Stuart Brown reiterated that regional campus student resistance to the Thursday reading day arose because it shifted exams to Fridays but added that moving the reading day to earlier in the week would not be helpful. If students are to be surveyed, then USG should be involved and Dave Wagner offered to work with Erika Elechicon to this end. He will invite additional USG representative to the next SSC meeting.
6. The meeting adjourned at 11.33 AM
Next meeting 4/19 at 10 AM.