

## Senate Scholastic Standards Committee 2016/2017

Meeting Minutes 12/7/2016

9.00 – 10.30 AM

Senate Conference Room, Hall Dorm

Members present: Karen Bresciano, David Clokey, Susanna Cowan, Lauren DiGrazia, Holly Fitch, Hedley Freake (chair), Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Jennifer Lease Butts, Jill Livingston, Steven Park, Susan Spiggle, Gina Stuart, David Wagner.

1. The minutes from 11/16/16 were approved.
2. Hedley Freake reported on the meeting of Senate committee chairs with the SEC. There was some continued discussion of the student stress/academic calendar issue. A subsequent email from Cheryl Galli/Mark Boyer asked the SSC to continue to pursue the issue, focusing on the problem of student stress and also particular concerns regarding how laboratory classes would be affected by calendar changes. Several members of the SSC will attend the upcoming meeting of the Senate Student Welfare Committee with the directors of Counseling and Mental Health Services and Student Health Services, where the issue of student stress and possible solutions to it will be discussed. Any further discussion of the calendar should await the outcomes of that meeting.
3. The committee considered the language proposed by Education Abroad to inform students about the requirements to have courses taken abroad appear on their UConn transcripts. Susanna Cowan and Jill Livingston had worked on the language and supplied extensive revisions to the committee. Representatives from Education Abroad were unable to attend this meeting but raised concerns about two changes suggested to the document. Education Abroad uses the term “accreditation” to describe the process of determining the equivalence of courses taken abroad to those at UConn. In the view of Susanna and Jill, this term has a separate meaning and they suggested that the process was one of aligning courses with their UConn equivalents. The committee agreed and so the suggestion will be made that Education Abroad changes their language. The second change of concern was the insertion of a sentence indicating that courses that were listed as UNIV International Study because students had not gone through the alignment process would not have any credits. In fact, all courses taken abroad should be included on the UConn transcript with credit and so that sentence was deleted. Language in the document was finalized as follows:

All academic coursework taken as a part of any UConn Education Abroad program will appear on a student’s official UConn transcript with UConn course numbers, grades and credits.

Courses taken as a part of an Education Abroad program fall into two categories:

1. Pre-approved courses include those attached to *all* UConn faculty-led Education Abroad courses as well as specific courses in other programs that have been assigned equivalent UConn course numbers and credits. Pre-approved courses\* do not require further approval. Once transcripts are received from the host institution, courses and grades will be recorded on a student’s UConn transcript.

2. Courses that have not been pre-approved *must* go through the course alignment process to be assigned equivalent UConn course numbers and credits. This alignment process *must* be completed by the end of the semester after a student returns from studying abroad. Once the alignment process is completed and transcripts are received from the host institution, courses and grades will be recorded on a student's UConn transcript.

Deadlines for the course alignment process:

- Students abroad during spring or summer have until December 31<sup>st</sup> to submit all courses for alignment.
- Students abroad for fall or winter have until May 31<sup>st</sup> to submit all courses for alignment.

Courses that are not submitted for alignment by these deadlines will be listed as UNIV foreign study courses with grades on a student's UConn transcript. If no foreign transcript is received, F grades will be recorded.

\*This should be hyperlinked to the list of pre-approved courses.

4. Discussion of this language brought forward several additional issues related to education abroad.
  - a. Should UConn move to requiring pre-approval for all education abroad courses?
  - b. Is an intermediate system possible whereby students would be required to report courses being taken after a certain number of weeks abroad? These would then replace the OFFC placeholder on the transcript.
  - c. Transfer Admissions uses a Peoplesoft system to require UConn students to get preapproval for courses taken at other US institutions. Is something similar possible for Education Abroad. This seems unlikely since it would require customization of Peoplesoft.
  - d. What about courses that are not deemed appropriate for UConn academic credit?
  - e. The current system for determining course equivalency is clearly a big improvement over the old one but still places the onus on the student.

It was decided that another meeting with individuals from education Abroad would be useful in the spring semester.

5. Development of a proposal for a standardized numbering system for courses offering research experiences was briefly discussed. This would simplify reporting requirements for Enrichment Programs and the Office of Undergraduate Research. A proposal is being reviewed by the relevant parties and will come to the SSC in the spring.
6. The meeting adjourned at 10.30 AM.