

University Senate
Student Welfare Committee
November 22, 2013

Meeting called to order at 9:30.

Attendance: Corina Morris, Karen Bresciano, Teresa Dominguez, Susanna Cowan, Morty Ortega, Riana Pryor, Kelly Kennedy, Ari Solomon, Larry Goodheart, Sally Reis

Minutes Approved of September 13, 2013 and October 11, 2013

Transfer Policy with Sally Reis, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

There was a wide-ranging and frank discussion about the Transfer Policy proposed by Sally Reis. The proposal stated most centrally, “Students who matriculate at the University as freshman must earn a minimum of 90 credits in-residence, of which no more than 15 can be General Education credits.” Her major concern was the requirement minimum of 30 credits that has been in place since 1938 is too low even though a relatively few students are not taking most of their credits at UConn. Her data shows that many credits have been transferred in from community colleges, because it appears that they are cheaper and easier. Her goal is to make an UConn degree an UConn degree.

Discussion included:

- Why 90 credits and not, say, 60?
- What about UConn’s relationship and articulation agreements with the community colleges?
- What about financial stress faced by students in choosing where to take courses?
- The proposal left open a number of issues, as questions and comments at the October Senate meeting showed.
- Unfavorable press coverage and opposition from the community colleges has come to the fore.

The committee agreed with the Vice Provost that it was best to table the proposal per Scholastic Standards and reassess what might be done in the future with transfer policy. She is engaged in conversation with the community colleges and others about the controversy raised by the proposal.

Undergraduate Student Welfare at the Regional Campuses with Ari Solomon

Ari Solomon, Vice-President of Student Government at the Greater Hartford Campus (GHC) and Honors Student in Mathematics, spoke passionately and definitively about iniquities, inadequate representation, and stigma attached to the Regional Campuses that undergraduate students unfairly endure. In order to mobilize students, Associated Student Government at GHC was hosting that very day a meeting of student leaders from the Regional Campuses. Larry

reported these concerns to the Senate Executive and Heads of Committee meeting that met at noon on Nov. 22.

The committee extended an invitation to the student government representatives from the Regional Campuses to present issues and proposals for reform at our next meeting, Feb. 21.

Finals By-law Review

Thanks to Karen Bresciano, Associate Director, Office of Student Services & Advocacy, who has brought to the fore the long delayed revisions on Semester Examinations and Final Assessment policy. Constructive conversation led to revision of the third paragraph of a draft from Scholastic Standards. That revision now reads: "Instructors who assign a final assessment that they believe should not be considered for the bunched finals policy, have the option of contacting the Registrar's Office to have their assessment due during a block time that will be excluded from the bunched finals policy. Such assessments should include only those items which have been assigned or completed well in advance of finals week and may include but are not limited to portfolio reviews and semester-long policy." The revision now goes back to Scholastic Standards for review and then hopefully to the Senate Executive and Senate for a vote.

Smoking Ban Committee

Terri Dominguez, Manager of the Occupational Health and Safety Section, reported that the committee is meeting and that she is a member of the committee.

Spring 2014 Meetings

All meetings are on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. to noon. Room Rowe 331e.

Feb. 21: Student Government Representatives from the Regional Campuses

March 28: Co-chairs on the Task Force on Civility and Campus Culture

April 25: agenda tba.

Adjourned: 11:25 a.m.

Submitted by Larry Goodheart