

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee 2015/2016

Meeting Minutes 10/22/2015

2.00 – 3.30 PM

Wilbur Cross 110

Members present: Karen Bresciano, Joe Crivello, Lauren DiGrazia, Hedley Freake (chair), Larry Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Jennifer Lease Butts (ex-officio), Jill Livingston, Eric Schultz.

1. The minutes of the 10.1.15 meeting were approved with the following addition (in bold).

Decisions: The committee agreed that stating "typically no more than thirty" would articulate the approximate number of annual Scholar appointments without restricting it to this number. **This could be suggested on the Senate floor if debate ensues.** The latter change **regarding tenure or tenure-track faculty** is an appropriate topic for debate on the Senate floor.

2. Joe Crivello has generously agreed to serve as the SSSC representative to the Honors Board. He takes over from Lauren DiGrazia who has been willing to serve because a faculty member is preferred for this role.
3. Jill Livingston updated the committee on the motions on Adding or Dropping Courses and University Scholars, which were passed by the Senate at its October meeting. The only substantive change resulting from the debate was to allow non-tenure track faculty to serve on University Scholar advisory committees. This will be permitted provided at least one member is in the tenure track. However, there was extensive debate on the floor of the Senate about the wording of the by-law changes. The ways in which these motions are presented and the rules governing their discussion will be brought to the SEC to see if the process can be improved.
4. The proposal that students be required to pass the lab component of general education CA3 courses to get credit for the course was discussed. While it was agreed that the lab should be an integral part of the course and there was no opposition to the proposal, in the judgment of the committee this is matter for GEOC and the SCCC, rather than SSSC. This will be communicated to the SEC and GEOC, together with the willingness of the SSSC to review any proposed changes once they have been brought forward. The committee also expressed willingness to consider the larger question of the association between the lab and lecture portion for all lab courses, should a problem be apparent in this area.
5. Katrina Higgins updated the committee on conversations with CLAS CCC on the issue of Biology majors graduating without taking any courses above the 2xxx level. It appears that this problem is unique to general biology majors who split their requirements over the 3 biology departments and therefore can avoid higher level courses. The issue has been recognized by the biology departments and they will develop a plan to address it. Thus action from SCCC is not needed.

6. Lauren DiGrazia updated the committee on the findings of an internal audit of practices within the Registrar's office. The concerns raised related to the lack of a clear timeline for changes to grades and the fact that approvals for grade changes are now handled electronically, whereas the by-laws talk of paper signatures. The former issue will be discussed at a future meeting. The latter has import for the by-laws beyond grade changes and is best dealt with by a blanket statement in the by-laws such as:

In lieu of hard copy signatures, the University accepts verified electronic signatures.

Lauren also alerted the committee to the fact that discussions are underway to create an alternative academic calendar for some graduate and graduate certificate programs. Also discussions are beginning, originating in the Provost's office, to allow students to double major across 2 schools or colleges.

7. The request from the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture for an adjustment to the readmission after dismissal policy for their students was discussed. Their students are in a 2-year associates degree program with courses only offered at Storrs. The proposal to reduce the time before readmission after a first dismissal from 2 to 1 semester and after a second from 8 to 4 semesters was accepted. This will be the subject of an MOU between the program and the Dean of Students Office.
8. Katrina Higgins announced that work is under way to create a centralized process for student appeals against dismissal from the University.
9. The meeting adjourned at 3.35 PM.