

## Senate Scholastic Standards Committee 2015/2016

Meeting Minutes 1/25/2016

2.00 – 3.30 PM

Senate Conference Room, Hall Dorm

Members present: Brian Aneskievich, Karen Bresciano, Stuart Brown, Robin Coulter, Susanna Cowan, Joe Crivello, Lauren DiGrazia, Hedley Freake (chair), Doni Ivanov, Jennifer Lease Butts (by phone, ex-officio), Jill Livingston, Mackenzie Morrison, Eric Schultz, Annelie Skoog, Gina Stuart.

1. The minutes from 12/8/15 were approved.
2. Report back from SEC.

The SEC is agreeable to have the second reading of the Admissions by-laws change motion begin with an amendment to include “or program” in section 1a, as decided at the previous SSC meeting. This clarifies for home-schooled students that applicants do not need to have graduated from a high school, provided they have met the content requirements listed in the by-law. There was no new business from the SEC.

3. Old business

- a. Admissions bylaws

The by-law modification to say “Each applicant shall have graduated from, or have completed 16 units in, an approved secondary school or program.” may not satisfy the home school concern since it is not clear whether such programs are “approved” in CT. Parents do need to file with their local board of education to verify their child is being educated rather than truant. Admissions does not really care whether the program is approved since they will examine a home-schooled student’s application to confirm whether s/he meets UConn admission requirements. The committee decided the new language is sufficient.

The first paragraph of this section of the by-laws (II.A.1) begins “Except as specified in Section II.A.2...” to reference exceptions to the minimum admissions requirements. Those exceptions are now in II.A.1d. A motion to change this section to read “Except as specified below...” was approved unanimously and will be brought to the Senate when the motion is presented.

- b. By-laws governing grades and temporary grades

Proposed changes to the by-law section on grades and temporary grades were discussed. At the previous meeting it was determined that a complete rewrite was required and Joe, Robin, Doni and Hedley had worked on a new draft over the break and presented it to the committee. That draft I appended to these minutes. For the sake of clarity, the grades and their definitions were rewritten in tabular form. Among the points of discussion were:

- i. The old by-laws included definition of all grades (including +/-) A through F. It was decided to simplify the table to only define the whole letter grades, with the intermediate ones being obviously between these stated values.

- ii. It was determined that the points per credit value for each grade should be to only one decimal place. This is consistent with the old by-laws, the catalog, the definitions on the transcript and the calculations within Peoplesoft. Though semester and cumulative GPAs are calculated to 3 decimal places, original entries of grades only include 1.
- iii. The table of grades is followed by a series of apparently unrelated statements. These may be made more coherent by putting them in bullet form and in some cases can be omitted because they are included elsewhere in the by-laws.
- iv. There was extensive discussion of the temporary grade marks I, X and N and a newly proposed M. M represents work that is incomplete where no arrangement for make-up has been made. It was agreed that there is much confusion among faculty around temporary grades and a clear and effective system is needed. Although the old by-laws suggest that N is an administrative mark used when faculty do not submit a grade for a student, in practice N grades are submitted by faculty since Peoplesoft will not allow grade submission for a course unless values are assigned to all students. Thus N is a faculty assigned grade given to a student who has completed no assignments for a class. X indicates absence from the final exam and the committee was divided about whether it was better to extend X to include lack of completion of other assignments or whether the new mark M was required.
- v. The committee will continue discussion at the next meeting and in the interim and in the interim a smaller group will update the draft based on discussions to date.

#### 4. New Business

- a. Reading Days

Mackenzie reported on a small USG-sponsored survey of students on the use of reading days. The SEC has asked the Student Welfare Committee to consider this questions and so she will forward survey results to that committee.

- b. Grade appeal procedures

Stuart related circumstances around a grade appeal where procedures described in the by-laws appeared not to have been followed. The view of the committee was that it was an administrative matter to be dealt with by the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

The meeting adjourned at 3.35 PM