

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee 2016/2017

Meeting Minutes 2/1/2017

10.00 – 11.30 AM

Senate Conference Room, Hall Dorm

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

Guest: Caroline McGuire (Enrichment Programs)

1. The minutes from the 1/18/17 meeting were approved as written.
2. Hedley Freake report back that the SEC concurred with the committee's judgment that since inserting break days in the fall semester was not likely to relieve student stress, further consideration of changes to the calendar was unnecessary at this time.
3. Katrina Higgins (Growth and Development) and Lauren DiGrazia (Diversity) gave short reports on recent activities of those committees on which they serve as representatives of Scholastic Standards.
4. The discussion with representatives from the Education Abroad office was deferred until the next meeting, since they were forced to cancel at the last minute.
5. Lauren DiGrazia shared a document (appended), prepared in consultation with Jen Lease Butts and Caroline McGuire on standardizing the numbering and description for research and other experiential learning courses across departments. While number were reserved for these purposes at the time of course renumbering, there is little uniformity in the ways that departments use them. This creates confusion for students and faculty and difficulties for those who wish to track these types of learning at the university.

An extensive discussion of this situation followed. Among the points brought forward were:

Can these course shells be put in place centrally, leaving departments with the decision of whether to offer them or not?

Can they be made available centrally, leaving the departments the option of deciding whether to include them in their catalog offerings?

There are some existing courses that use some of these number and so these existing courses would require renumbering.

Is it appropriate to use Independent Studies when a regular course is being taught one-on-one to a student?

Independent Studies are defined more by the process followed than by the number of students enrolled.

All of these courses require syllabi.

It was clarified that each department has the authority to determine who should teach Independent Studies, including adjuncts and graduate students.

There are particular issues here for summer session where administrative work is involved for any course listed whether it is taught or not.

The term “research” does not have a uniform definition across disciplines

The committee determined that provision and standardization of these courses was desirable but significant work was involved to come up with definitions and catalog copy. Clearly Curricula and Courses committees from both the Senate and the schools and colleges needed to be involved. It was decided to communicate the issue to the SEC to help decide the process to be followed to formalize a proposal.

6. Some issues in the by-laws regarding late registration have been identified and this should be added to the future business list.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30 AM.

Next meeting Wednesday 2/15, 10 AM.