

**Annual Report to the University Senate of the
Senate Scholastic Standards Committee
2016-2017 Academic Year**

Scholastic Standards presented two motions to amend the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University Senate during the 2016-2017 AY. One further motion is pending for the fall semester.

Motions Presented

II.C.1, Requirements in General, Minors

The by-laws were silent on minors and this motion was introduced to provide consistency across programs while leaving control with the schools and colleges. The new language is as follows.

h. Minors

A minor provides an option for students who want to add further breadth to their academic program. A minor is available only to a matriculated student currently pursuing a baccalaureate degree. Minors will consist of 12 - 18 credits of 2000+ level course work. Unless a higher standard is noted in the description of a specific minor program, completion of a minor requires that a student earn a 'C' or better in each of the required courses for that minor. The same course may be used to meet both major and minor requirements unless prohibited by the department or program offering the minor as specifically stated in the University catalog. Substitutions to minor requirements require the approval of the head or designee of the department or program offering the minor. The minor is recorded on the student's official transcript.

Approved October 3 2016.

II.E, Scholastic Standing

The Scholastic Standing portion of the By-Laws that relate to Grades was out of date and did not reflect desired or current practice. The committee spent several meetings making significant changes and reorganizing this section. The changes were presented and approved with very little discussion by the Senate.

Approved October 3 2016.

Motions in Preparation for Fall 2016

11.E, Scholastic Standing

The Senate By-Laws make limited mention of courses offered outside of the fall and spring semesters. As more courses are offered in the inter and summer sessions, the By-Laws require revision to clarify regulations covering those courses. New language has been prepared covering four different By-Law sections and will be brought to the Senate as determined by the SEC.

In addition to the discussions that resulted in the above approved and planned motions, Scholastic Standards considered several other items over the past year. These included:

- The SEC asked the SSC to review the question of whether there should be an expedited process for review of appeals against dismissal for some categories of students. It determined that the current procedure, which gives authority to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs to oversee and to expedite appeals as she sees fit was sufficient and so no changes are recommended.
- The committee met twice with Sarah O’Leary and Abigail Hastillo from Education abroad. Students studying abroad sometimes do not complete the process for bringing courses taken abroad onto their UConn transcripts. The view of Education Abroad, shared by the SSC is that this should not be an optional process. A process to ensure that this occurs was agreed and language developed to inform students of this requirement. The process governing withdrawal from courses was also discussed and it was agreed that students should conform to host institution rules while abroad but transcript modifications could be made upon return when these rules were inconsistent with those at UConn.
- The SEC asked the committee to consider the possibility of including 2 October non-class days in the fall semester to lessen stress on students. The committee reviewed evidence considered at the time of the last calendar revision and met with the directors of Student Health Services and Counseling and Mental Health Services at a meeting with the Student Welfare Committee. Given the difficulties of making adjustments to the calendar and the testimony that addition of break days was unlikely to ameliorate stress on students, the committee recommended to the SEC that the inclusion of October break days was not warranted.
- The committee reviewed policies and procedures governing academic adjustments for general education second language and quantitative requirements and produced a new policy document in accord with current practice. This was passed on to the Senate Curricular and Courses Committee and then to GEOC, since the original policy had come to the Senate through those bodies.
- Following a request from Residential Life, the SSC considered the question of how soon students should be allowed to return to residence on campus following academic dismissal. The committee determined that the By-Laws are clear that dismissal includes non-residence on campus and so that return to housing should await return to classes.
- Concerns about different grading scales at the graduate and undergraduate levels were discussed, namely the availability of A+ at the graduate level. This may unfairly penalize undergraduate students taking graduate courses who cannot receive an A+ grade, even if they perform at that level. There was reluctance to tamper with the undergraduate grading scheme and so discussions will be initiated with the graduate school on this topic.
- At the time of course renumbering, the Registrar reserved certain course numbers for specific kinds of courses. Utilization of these numbers is quite variable across

departments making reporting difficult, particularly as regards undergraduate research. The committee reviewed this numbering system and developed an extended and more complete version that would clarify the function of these courses for faculty and students and facilitate reporting. This document was passed on to the SEC and SCCC.

- The committee also began discussions on the Academic Integrity policy and in particular why it was not being followed by faculty.
- Following a request from Sally Reis to the SEC, the committee was asked to reconsider the usefulness of the fall exam period Reading Day. It was determined that data were needed about student and faculty attitudes towards the Reading Day and planning was commenced on how those data should be obtained.

The committee is grateful to Cheryl Galli for the assistance she provided over the course of the year and to all members for their combination of good humor, clear thinking and attention to detail.

Respectfully submitted,

Hedley Freake (Chair)

2016-2017 Senate Scholastic Standards Committee Members:

Brian Aneskievich, Lorraine Apuzzo (GSS), Karen Bresciano, Stuart Brown, Jennifer Lease Butts (ex-officio), David Clokey, Robin Coulter, Susanna Cowan, Joseph Crivello, Lauren DiGrazia, Erika Elechicon (USG), Holly Fitch, Hedley Freake, Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Jill Livingston, Steven Park/Peter Diplock (representing SCCC), Annelie Skoog, Susan Spiggle, Gina Stuart, Ellen Tripp, David Wagner.