

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee 2016/2017

Meeting Minutes 5/3/2017

10.00 – 11.30 AM

Senate Conference Room, Hall Dorm

Members present: Karen Bresciano, Joe Crivello, Peter Diplock, Erika Elechicon, Holly Fitch, Hedley Freake (chair), Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Jennifer Lease Butts, David Wagner.

1. The minutes from 4/19/17 were approved.
2. The SEC received the motion to change the by-laws to better cover inter- and summer sessions and it will be brought to the Senate in the fall. The recommendations on research-related courses will be discussed by the Senate Curricula and Courses Committee at their next meeting on May 10. Hedley Freake and Jen Lease Butts will attend.
3. The survey on student attitudes towards reading days was completed since the last meeting by Erika Elechicon, Dave Wagner, Susanna Cowan and Karen Bresciano, with some expert help from Robin Coulter. Distribution to students has started but is awaiting action from those in USG responsible. Erika will try to speed it up since time is short.

The goal is to distribute a more complete and considered version in the fall, together with a faculty survey on the same topic, but concentrating on the consequences of changing the reading day schedule. It will also be necessary to consult with other stakeholders, namely Residential Life, Dining Services, Summer Programs, Summer Orientation, Athletics, etc. It would also be useful to know whether there is any literature on the usefulness of reading days. The interests of the regional campuses also need to be taken into account.

4. The discussion extended to final exams themselves. The practice of holding the final exam in the last class meeting is apparently becoming quite common. Although many expressed reservations about this, some students like it because they may finish their examinations earlier. Data are needed from the Registrar on the use of final exams and alternative assessments. It would also be useful to review syllabi to determine the type of final assessment and the weight that they carry. Peter will develop a survey on the use of final assessments and work with OIRE to generate a random sample of departments/courses to be surveyed.
5. Remaining items of future business were briefly discussed and prioritized
 - a. The Academic Integrity policy will need to be addressed in the fall to clarify why not all faculty are following it and what adjustments are needed.
 - b. There is still some confusion in the By-Laws about final assessments and changes will be required to clarify that they are not required.
 - c. The rules on first semester dismissal for students with 0.0 GPA still require attention.
 - d. The requirement that double majors across colleges/schools, i.e. additional degrees, need 30 more credits is still being discussed within the schools and colleges and is likely to come forward in the fall.
 - e. Concerns about the length of Add/Drop period and the 9 week deadline for withdrawals are no longer current and these items can be removed from the list.

- f. The discrepancy between the graduate (can use A+) and undergraduate grading scales remain and should be addressed with the Graduate School in the fall.
 - g. Various prohibitions on which courses can be transferred in for undergraduate credit need review.
 - h. Requests for academic accommodations continue to increase and move into new areas (labs).
 - i. The Honors Board is completing revisions of the requirements for Graduating with Honors and these will be brought to the committee in the fall.
 - j. The time line for students to request grade changes may conflict with the State's course material retention guidelines.
 - k. Late registration by-laws – this was added to the future business list on 2/1/17 but the minutes do not indicate the nature of the issue.
6. Committee members thanked each other for their service and congratulated Erika upon her graduation.
7. The meeting adjourned at 11.15 AM.