

Minutes

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee (SSSC)

November 7, 2013

Hall Dorm, Room 123, 3:00 PM

SSSC Members (attending in **BOLD**): **Gerald Gianutsos (Chair)**, Robin Chazdon, **David Clokey, Joseph Crivello**, Susanna Cowan, Dipak Dey, **Lauren DiGrazia, Johann Peter Gogarten, Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Elena Innes** (Undergraduate student representative), Jennifer Lease Butts (ex-officio), **Jill Livingston, Felicia Pratto, John Meyers** (Undergraduate student representative), **Thomas Recchio, Christopher Tomaszewski** (Graduate student representative).

Non Members Present: Patty Szarek (Representing Honors Program).

1. Minutes of the 10/08/13 meeting were approved.
2. Old Business – Updates
 - a. The residency requirement motion was revised by the Senate and is scheduled to be voted on at the November meeting. (The SSSC and Senate subsequently agreed to postpone the vote until further discussions can take place.)
 - b. Katrina Higgins reported that the pilot program to bar repeaters from registering for certain courses until all first time students have had an opportunity to register has been completed and further discussion on reappraising the repeat forgiveness rule will be a future agenda item.
 - c. Gerry Gianutsos reported that he was informed that the SSSC needs to continue discussing the issue of bunched final assessments and that Karen Bresciano has been invited to the next SSSC meeting. Joe Crivello reported that the implementation of the testing center is progressing with the expectation that it will be housed in the library within the next two years.
3. Course Syllabi – Gerry Gianutsos reported that the Senate Courses and Curriculum Committee (SCCC) had revised the SSSC's motion on course syllabi (see minutes of 10/08/13) and sent it to SSSC for comments. The revised motion from SCCC is:

Motion: Add the following to the Miscellaneous section of the Senate Rules and Regulations as Section I.5.:

5. *Syllabi*

Faculty shall provide syllabi and/or individualized contracts to students in their courses. Syllabi shall provide: instructor contact information, course prerequisites, class meeting schedule, course materials, course learning objectives, assignments and assessments, grading scheme, a

grading scale that translates points earned into letter grades if points are used, and an academic integrity statement. Contracts shall specify course goals and assessment of student performance, and shall be signed by the student, faculty supervisor, and if applicable, the field supervisor.

The Committee was not supportive of the revised motion, finding it too specific with too many requirements and was apprehensive about the use of the word “contract”. However, the Committee felt that the last line of the background was a good representation of the spirit of the intended motion and should be part of the final version:

“The proposed addition to Senate Rules and Regulations is designed to codify the expectation that classes will be conducted on the basis of a shared understanding as to what will be taught, how it will be taught, and how learning will be assessed.”

A motion was made (Recchio) and seconded (Crivello) to reject the SCCC’s proposal; the motion passed without dissent. Recchio and Crivello will work on another revision to bring to the SSSC at a future meeting.

4. Graduate Courses Fulfilling Honors Requirements: Patty Szarek led a continuation of the discussion on a recommendation from the Honors Program to permit up to six credits of courses at the 5000 level or above (changed from “advanced/graduate courses”) that are used to fulfill Honors requirements to also be used toward a graduate degree, so long as these courses are not used for the baccalaureate degree. (Attached.) The recommendation passed without dissent and will be reported to the SEC.
5. Administrative decisions that have negative impact on academic programs, with emphasis on Freshman English: Tom Recchio discussed a recent decision by the Dean of CLAS to change the structure and graduate assistant teaching load for the first year writing course. While this is an administrative decision, he noted that the course impacts all other programs on campus. Since the Senate is responsible for these kinds of courses, he argued that changes which affect course pedagogy should be examined by Senate committees. He anticipates that the situation will be resolved through additional discussions with the Dean and did not request further action at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 19, 1:00 – 2:30 PM, Hall Dorm Rm. 123.

Advanced/Graduate Courses Toward the Honors Scholar Graduation Requirements Background Information and Draft Policy for HBAD Review on 01-25-2013

As part of the requirements to graduate as an Honors Scholar, Honors students may use graduate courses toward the number of Honors credits, if approved by their Honors advisors. These courses are not converted to Honors and are not listed on the students' transcripts with the "Honors credit" notation.

University Regulations

There are University regulations that prohibit students from counting the same course toward both an undergraduate and graduate degree. If the courses were not used toward the baccalaureate degree, students may be allowed to use up to six credits of advanced coursework taken as an undergraduate toward the graduate degree providing they meet the prescribed conditions. University regulations outline the following:

Occasionally, a University of Connecticut senior planning to enter the Graduate School has less than a full course load remaining to complete for graduation. Such a student may take advanced courses along with the remaining undergraduate courses and may count those advanced courses toward the graduate degree. Inclusion of up to six credits of such course work is permissible under the following conditions: (a) the work is completed with grades of B or above; (b) the student is later admitted to Regular status in the Graduate School; (c) the work is approved as part of the graduate plan of study; and (d) the student presents a written statement from the University Registrar certifying that the work was not counted toward the baccalaureate degree.

(Graduate Catalog: <http://catalog.grad.uconn.edu/reg.html>)

Honors Policy and Practice

There is no known written policy governing whether graduate credits may be used toward both Honors requirements and the graduate degree, if all other conditions of University policy stated above are met. For many years, the practice was to not allow counting the credits toward both Honors and the graduate degree even if the graduate courses were not used toward the baccalaureate degree. This restriction was indicated on Honors forms and web sites, but the system in place only checked if the graduate courses were used toward the baccalaureate degree requirements and not specifically checked for use toward the Honors requirements.

Within the past few years, the practice in Honors was reconsidered and changed to reflect a different interpretation. As long as the advanced/graduate credits were not used toward the baccalaureate degree and if the other conditions of the University regulations were met, the graduate courses are now available for use toward the graduate degree despite being part of the Honors plan of study. This new practice further encourages students to enroll in challenging and advanced plans of study and continue

to pursue the Honors Scholar designation. Otherwise, students may be discouraged and opt to withdraw from Honors so that the courses could be used for the graduate degree.

****Proposed Policy****

Advanced/graduate courses used toward the requirements of Honors Scholar graduation may be used toward a graduate degree providing all other conditions of University regulations have been met.