

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee 2016/2017

Meeting Minutes 9/7/2016

9.00 – 10.30 AM

Senate Conference Room, Hall Dorm

Members present: Karen Bresciano, Susanna Cowan, Joe Crivello, Lauren DiGrazia, Holly Fitch, Hedley Freake (chair), Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Jennifer Lease Butts, Gina Stuart, David Wagner.

1. Committee members introduced themselves.
2. The minutes from 4/25/16 had been approved electronically but were circulated for information.
3. The SEC met with standing committee chairs on 9/2. Relevant points included that standing committee meeting minutes need to be available within a week of each meeting. They do not need to be approved at this stage so that minutes can continue to be approved at the subsequent meeting.

The SEC also asked the SSC to review the question of an expedited process for review of appeals against dismissal for some categories of students. International students and athletes may have particular needs in this area but they cannot be treated differently from other students. The committee asked Katrina Higgins to come up with language for an expedited process to be reviewed at a future meeting.

The SEC also asked the SSC to bring the two motions listed on minors and on Scholastic Standing/Grades to the Senate on September 12.

4. Suggested changes to the motion on Minors were reviewed and small changes approved
The language approved is:

To insert the following paragraph as a new paragraph h in section II C 1 Requirements in General of the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University Senate:

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 specifically stated otherwise 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.

5. The motion on Scholastic Standing/Grades was also slightly modified to allow renumbering of the subsequent paragraphs of Section IIE of the by-laws. This was needed because the rewriting of the early sections reduced the number of paragraphs from 10 to 8.
6. Katrina Higgins, Lauren DiGrazia and Joe Crivello volunteered to be SSC representatives for Growth and Development, Diversity and the Honors Board, respectively. The committee gratefully accepted their offers.
7. The committee reviewed its business for the year
 - a. Education Abroad has asked to meet with the committee to discuss requiring students to transfer in the credits they earn while studying abroad and also making the add/drop process for students studying abroad parallel to that used at UConn. Education Abroad representatives will attend the next SSC meeting to discuss.
 - b. Jill Livingston alerted the committee to the fact that there is still confusion around the necessity for final assessments and by-law clarifications may be needed. She has prepared potential language.
 - c. Transfer admissions has a blanket rule that graduate courses taken elsewhere cannot be brought in to contribute towards an undergraduate degree. The basis for this is unclear. In addition, state audit findings have questioned the use of student financial aid for graduate students to be used for undergraduate classes that will not count towards the graduate degree, and there may be implications for undergraduates taking graduate classes.
 - d. The bunched finals policy is in need of revision as is the current requirement for a reading day during exams in the fall semester. These issues are under active consideration in the Student Welfare Committee and this committee will need to liaise with them to bring resolution to this issue. One suggestion is to survey faculty in this area to determine whether they have issues with scheduling final examinations independently of the regular class meeting times.
 - e. Student Welfare polled faculty about their use of the Academic Misconduct policies and found that only 30% follow the required practices. The policy needs to be better communicated but in addition it needs to be extended to cover activities beyond coursework, e.g., grant or fellowship applications. Again liaison with Student Welfare is needed.
 - f. The Academic Adjustments policy for second language and quantitative requirements as practiced differs from what is written. Katrina will bring language for the required update.
 - g. The need for a research experience course, 0.0 first semester dismissal and the possibility of double majors across colleges/schools were not discussed but represent issues that may come up during the year.
 - h. Susana Cowan brought up the need for by-law revision to properly account for summer and other between semester sessions. She suggested a subcommittee to

review the by-laws from this perspective and Larry Gramling and Joe Crivello offered to join her on that subcommittee.

8. Future meetings for the semester will occur biweekly, i.e., Sept 21, Oct 5, 19, Nov 2, 16 and Dec 7 all from 9-10.30 in the Senate Conference Room.
9. The meeting adjourned at 10.30 AM.