

Minutes
Senate Scholastic Standards Committee
February 17, 2008

Members: (attending members in bold): **John Clausen (Chair)**, John Bennett, Kay Bloomberg, **Scott Brown, Francine DeFranco, Gerald Gianutsos, Lynne Goodstein,** Lawrence Gramling, **Douglas Hamilton,** Katrina Higgins, Janna Mahfoud, **Yuhang Rong, Jeffrey von Munkwitz-Smith, David Wagner,** Robert Weiner, Han Zhang

1. Minutes from Dec. 15, 2008 approved.

Old Business

A. INTD/UNIV.

The main issue regards Article XII 4 of the By-laws concerning the functions of the divisions and INTD/UNIV courses. Materials regarding the by-laws and emails were distributed. Committee members recommended that Margaret Lamb be invited to a future meeting to discuss the issue. Lynne Goodstein volunteered to prepare draft language for a possible by-law change with the help of Margaret Lamb.

B. Dismissal Policy – K. Higgins
Postponed.

C. Academic calendar.

For the information of the SSC, the chair mentioned that the SEC has set up a Task Force on the academic calendar.

D. Statement on Class Activities During Religious Holidays – postscript.

The chair discussed an email received from VP Makowsky and Dean of Students Williams. The committee agreed that the intent of the motion was to remind instructors during the semester in a similar fashion as is used for extracurricular activities. There was no intent to modify the process for excuses from finals. The chair will reply to the original emails regarding this intent.

New Business

a. Drop date.

In response to an email from Provost Nicholls, the SSC discussed the issue of possibly moving up the drop date from the 10 day norm. Discussion centered on consideration of both adds and drops, the number of class periods per week and past Senate actions on this very same issue. It was noted that PeopleSoft will allow wait lists for some trial departments next semester. The SSC asked the chair to request minutes of prior Senate discussions and motions on this subject from T. Gifford and forward that information to Provost Nichols. If the Provost desires a meeting on the subject, the chair, S. Brown, and D. Wagner volunteered to attend.

B. Plagiarism article.

For the information of the SSC, a link to an article regarding plagiarism from M. Ortega via VP Makowsky was distributed to the members.

C. December commencement by-law change

A motion to change the by-laws due to the elimination of the December commencement was reviewed and approved by the SSC. The motion will be forwarded to the Senate for action.

D. Dean of Students

The SSC discussed the elimination of the position of the Dean of students which has been announced. The SSC was unclear how the void created by this change would be filled. The student welfare committee may also have interest in this question. It was recognized that the dean of Students has several important roles including: being a go-to person for students, orientations, dealing with campus tragedies, meeting students, etc. The SSC asked the chair to discuss this issue with the SEC for further discussion with VP Saddlemire and a possible presentation to the senate.

E. Final exam absences

The Chair distributed emails regarding the obligations of faculty when a student is excused an absence from a final exam. The discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

G. Honors Program

L. Goodstein reported that the Honors program is in the midst of considering changes in the program for Honors Scholars and the Sophomore Certificate. A report should be forthcoming by the end of Spring semester or early next fall semester.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next meetings/locations:

Thurs., March 5 – Wilbur Cross, room 110
Tues., March 17 – Dodd Center, room 162
Thurs., April 2 – Wilbur Cross, room 110
Tues., April 14 – Dodd Center, room 162
Thurs., April 30 – Wilbur Cross, room 110