

Minutes
Senate Scholastic Standards Committee
March 5, 2009

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. The Minutes from February 17, 2009 were approved with one abstention.

Old Business

A. INTD/UNIV.

Discussion on this issue was postponed until the next meeting on March 17, 2009 when Margaret Lamb will be present. Members suggested preparing FAQs for the INTD/UNIV issue if a motion goes forward from the SSC.

B. Final exam absences.

The committee discussed the issues related to excuses from final exams granted by the Dean of Students' office. Members commented that they believe that the exam must be given once an excuse has been granted by the Dean of Students. Other comments were that it is easier to get a hold of the Dean of Students than all instructors during finals week. Also, there can be sensitive issues involved that are more appropriately handled by the Dean of students than faculty. Other advantages were that there is a streamlined process and uniform decision making in a centralized process. While faculty felt that the process probably allows for some abuses, the alternative would be worse. Members requested that the chair meet with Lee Williams to understand the criteria used when granting excuses from final exams, and then respond to the faculty member.

New Business

a. Dean of Students

Vice President for Student Affairs Saddlemire submitted potential changes in the By-Laws consistent with changes in Student Affairs through the SEC chair. The SSC took these changes under advisement pending other conversations regarding the Dean of Students position.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next meetings/locations:

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