

## Scholastic Standards

### Minutes

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Hall Dorm

1-2:30pm

**Attendees:** David Clokey, Karen Bresciano, Bennett Cognato, Hedley Freake, Gerald Gianutsos, Lawrence Gramling, Jill Livingston, Carol Teschke, Peter Tribuzio (via phone)

**Absent:** Lawrence Armstrong, Stuart Brown, Jennifer Lease Butts, Robin Coulter (sabbatical), Joseph Crivello, Susanna Cowan, Lauren DiGrazia, Katrina Higgins, Thomas Recchio, Eric Schultz,

- 1) SEC would like us to wait until September 2015 to present the University Scholar and Adding or Dropping Courses By-Laws proposals. They prefer not to present new motions for discussion in May that affect undergrads—undergrads are in the midst of final assessments at that time. These two motions will be put forth for discussion at the September 2015 Senate meeting.
- 2) Minutes from April 22, 2015 were approved.
- 3) Admissions By-Laws proposal

Discussion: The committee devised language to indicate that ECE courses are UConn courses delivered in the high school setting. Clarification is needed to differentiate between credit received for courses vs credit that is counted towards a University degree.

Decisions: Jill will meet with Lauren to draft language for review by SSSC in Fall 2015.

- 4) Information about student absences from classes

Discussion: In Fall 2014, the SSSC, in consultation with SEC, decided to undertake a learning exercise to find out more about class absences by different groups of students. Jill invited a faculty member, William Berentsen, to share his perspective with SSSC about the impact of student athlete absences from classes. She also invited Scott Brown (NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative) and Ellen Tripp (CPIA) to speak about absences from the athletics' perspective. Jill then independently spoke with Harvey Felder (Orchestra Conductor), David Mills (Director of Bands), Joseph Wilbur (Interim Program Coordinator of Club Sports), and Rachel Macri (Coordinator of Spirit Cheer and Dance). Information about frequency of absences and processes put in place to work with faculty was ascertained.

The Senate By-Laws stipulate the following:

#### II.E.11. *Class Attendance*

[note this is the first paragraph of II.E.11]

The faculties of the University consider attendance at classes a privilege which is extended to students when they are admitted to the University and for as long as they are in good standing. The Instructor concerned is given full and final authority (except in the case of final examinations) to decide whether or not a student is permitted to make up work missed by absence and on what terms.

### *I.2. Scheduling Student Events*

Those responsible for scheduling events which draw students away from classes shall schedule such events so that students' absences will be reduced to a minimum.

Furthermore, the Provost posts the following message to the Daily Digest:

#### 1/20 Statement on Absences

#### Statement on Absences from Class Due to Religious Observances and Extra-Curricular Activities

Faculty and instructors are strongly encouraged to make reasonable accommodations in response to student requests to complete work missed by absence resulting from religious observances or participation in extra-curricular activities that enrich their experience, support their scholarly development, and benefit the university community. Examples include participation in scholarly presentations, performing arts, and intercollegiate sports, when the participation is at the request of, or coordinated by, a University official. Such accommodations should be made in ways that do not dilute or preclude the requirements or learning outcomes for the course. Students anticipating such a conflict should inform their instructor in writing within the first three weeks of the semester, and prior to the anticipated absence, and should take the initiative to work out with the instructor a schedule for making up missed work. For conflicts with final examinations, students should contact the Dean of Students Office.

Faculty and instructors are also encouraged to respond when the Counseling Program for Intercollegiate Athletes (CPIA) requests student progress reports. This will enable the counselors to give our students appropriate advice.

For more information, contact: Office of the Provost at [provost@uconn.edu](mailto:provost@uconn.edu)

There are concerns on behalf of all parties when students miss classes when representing the University. There is a great impact on faculty, particularly when students miss exams. There is also an impact on students when accommodations cannot be reached. Students in the pep band, cheerleaders, and mascots have additional challenges in that they do have the support systems of NCAA athletes. This issue will require more discussion before determining next steps.

5) Thanks to everyone for their hard work this year. Outstanding issues for 2015-2016:

- Relationship of summer and intersession courses to the By-Laws
- Proper designation of regional campus authorities within the By-Laws
- By-Laws II.E.9. Changes of Course Grades (should a deadline be set?)