

**Annual Report to the University Senate of the
Senate Scholastic Standards Committee
2014-2015 Academic Year**

Scholastic Standards presented seven motions and three consent agenda proposals to amend the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University Senate during the 2014-2015 AY. Four additional motions are currently under consideration.

Motions Presented

II.B.11. Withdrawals and Leaves of Absence

Members of the United States armed forces called to active military service have different withdrawal and readmission processes than traditional students. This amendment incorporated language to recognize that federal laws dictate different readmission rules for this military population.

Approved November 3, 2014.

II.E.15. Scholastic Probation and Dismissal

The policies and procedures for readmission of students dismissed a first and second time were nearly identical and both repeated language from the preceding paragraph. This amendment streamlined the presentation of information.

Approved November 3, 2014.

II.E.12. Semester Examinations and Final Assessments

This amendment articulated that it is the responsibility of instructors of undergraduate courses to provide a clear form of assessment of student work, thus final assessments are no longer mandated. Further, this amendment replaced the use of “final examination” with “final assessments”, where appropriate. An earlier By-Laws change allowed for the administration of assessments in lieu of final examinations; however, this change was not reflected comprehensively in the language of the By-Laws.

Approved December 1, 2014.

II.B. Academic Advising and Registration

II.B.11 Withdrawals and Leaves of Absence

II.E.6 Grades of Incomplete and Absent

Actions carried out by the Dean of Students Office are often done so through designees at the Storrs and regional campuses; this was recognized by affixing the words “or designee” to “Dean of Students Office” or “Dean of Students,” in the following sections of the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate: II.B., II.B.11, and II.E.6. Several small editorial changes that did not affect process were also included in this motion.

Approved March 2, 2015.

II.E.11 Class Attendance

This amendment correctly identified the Dean of Students Office or designee as the entity students should contact when they will not attend any of the classes or laboratories of a course during the first two weeks of the semester.

Presented for discussion on April 13, 2015; to be presented for vote on May 4, 2015.

II.G.1 and 2, Eligibility for Participation in Collegiate Activities

This amendment differentiated between regulations for NCAA Competitions and Non-NCAA Competitions and Intramural Activities. Inaccuracies in the identification of UConn's athletic conferences and an erroneous cross-reference were also corrected. Presented for discussion on April 13, 2015; to be presented for vote on May 4, 2015.

II.E.12. Semester Examinations and Final Assessments

A sentence in the By-Laws was subject to different interpretations, "There shall be no more than five examination periods scheduled each day, covering two class periods, and each examination period shall be two hours in length." The amendment clarified that two hours is the maximum length of time allotted, but also provided a mechanism by which faculty can secure an extended amount of time.

Presented for discussion on April 13, 2015; to be presented for vote on May 4, 2015.

Consent Agenda Proposals

All references within the By-Laws to the "Office of Student Services and Advocacy" were replaced by "Dean of Students Office." This change reflected the current name of the office.

Approved October 6, 2014.

The name "unclassified students" was changed to "non-degree students" to reflect current services at UConn and the nomenclature used at other universities.

Approved April 13, 2015.

Lack of section titles in cross-references has led to inaccuracies within the By-Laws. All cross-references within the By-Laws will include the names and numbers of sections. This will prevent errors when cross-referencing.

Approved April 13, 2015.

Motions Under Consideration

II.B.10 Adding or Dropping Courses

This amendment clarified policies and procedures for dropping courses during the 2nd through 9th weeks of classes.

To be presented during the 2015-2016 AY.

F.3. University Scholars

This amendment updates the eligibility and curricula for the University Scholars program.

To be presented during the 2015-2016 AY.

II.A. Admissions

Scholastic Standards has undertaken a thorough review of the introduction and six sections of Admissions.

To be presented during the 2015-2016 AY.

11.E.9 Changes of Course Grades

Scholastic Standards is considering instituting a deadline for course grade changes, as recommended by the University Auditors.

In addition to those discussion held that resulted in the above motions and consent agenda proposals, Scholastic Standards undertook a learning exercise to increase the committee's knowledge of the attendance practices of various groups that represent the University. In this regard, Scholastic Standards members met with or elicited information from: Club Sports, Intercollegiate Athletics, Marching Band, Orchestra, and Spirit Cheer and Dance.

To better facilitate communication across the Senate, two members of Scholastic Standards served as representatives on other Senate Standing Committees. The Committee also consulted with other knowledgeable members of the University community to facilitate its work.

Cross-Representatives on Other Senate Standing Committees

Scholastic Standards values communication as a vehicle for informed discussion and decision-making. To that end, Scholastic Standards elects two members to serve on Senate Standing Committees: Joseph Crivello was elected to serve on Growth and Development and Katrina Higgins was elected to serve on Diversity. Further, the committee accepted Eric Shultz, as an elected representative from Curricula and Courses.

Consultations

Scholastic Standards would like to thank those who provided consultation on matters under consideration: Nathan Fuerst, Director of Admissions, provided extensive consultation to Scholastic Standards during the course of the year. Others we would like to thank include: William Berentsen, Professor, Department of Geography; Scott Brown, Distinguished Professor in Educational Psychology and NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative; Angie Cretors, Senior Associate Director of Athletics; Peter Diplock, Assistant Vice Provost for Excellence in Teaching & Learning; Cameron Faustman, Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Director of the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture; Harvey Felder, Symphony Orchestra Director; Cheryl Galli, Assistant to the University Senate; Jim Hill, Director of the Academic Center for Exploratory Students; Patricia Jepson, Director of the Academic Advisory Center, CAHNR; Rachel Macri, Spirit Cheer and Dance Coordinator; Desmond McCaffrey, Associate Director of eCampus; David Mills, Director of Bands; Gillian Thorne, Executive Director Office of Early College Programs; Ellen Tripp, Director of the Counseling Program for Intercollegiate Athletes; Joseph Wilbur, Interim Program Coordinator for Club Sports; and Christine Wilson, Director of Student Activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Livingston (Chair)

2014-2015 Senate Scholastic Standards Committee Members:

Lawrence Armstrong, Karen Bresciano, Bethany C. Brown (Fall 2014), Stuart Brown, Jennifer Lease Butts, David Clokey, Bennett Cognato (Spring 2015), Robin Coulter, Susanna Cowan,

Joseph Crivello, Lauren DiGrazia, Hedley Freake, Gerald Gianutsos, Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Jill Livingston, Thomas Recchio, Eric Schultz, Carol Teschke, Peter Tribuzio