

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee 2016/2017

Meeting Minutes 3/22/2017

10.00 – 11.30 AM

Senate Conference Room, Hall Dorm

Members present: Brian Aneskievich, Karen Bresciano, Stuart Brown (by phone), David Clokey, Susanna Cowan, Joe Crivello, Lauren DiGrazia, Erika Elechicon, Hedley Freake (chair), Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Jennifer Lease Butts.

1. The minutes from 3/1/17 were approved with acclaim and unanimity.
2. The committee continued discussion of the by-law changes relevant to summer sessions. Discussion on credit limits for terms of varying lengths was deferred to allow Lauren DiGrazia to investigate the full implications of these limits, in particular for financial aid.

The fourth area for revision (page 11-12 of the By-Laws [II. Rules and Regulations/B. Academic Advising/10. Adding or Dropping Courses]) involved adding the word “semester” to clarify that the time limits referred to the fall and spring and simplifying the language for adjustment of those limits for other terms.

Students may add semester courses during the first ten days of classes without special permissions. In exceptional circumstances only, a student may add courses after the tenth day of classes with the consent of the student's advisor, the course instructor, and the head of the department or program offering the course. After the fourth week of the semester, the permission of the student's academic dean or his/her designee is also required for adding classes. Students may drop courses before the end of the tenth day of classes without transcript notations. After the tenth day of classes and through the ninth week of the semester, a student may drop one course for any reason with permission from the student's advisor. No student is permitted to drop a course after the ninth week of classes or to drop more than one course after the first ten days of classes unless on the recommendation of the advisor, an exception is made by the dean or designee of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Exceptions are made only for extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. Poor academic performance is not considered a sufficient reason for dropping a course after the ninth week. Any course dropped after the first ten days of classes will receive a 'W' on the transcript. Exceptions to transcript notations can be made only by the Provost or designee.

[paragraphs removed for readability]

For courses of fewer than 14 weeks duration, the add/drop periods will be adjusted ~~and determined~~ by the Registrar.

3. Jen Lease Butts, Holly Fitch, Erin Mason (for Lauren DiGrazia) and Hedley Freake met with Caroline McGuire from the Office of Undergraduate Research to work on language for the undergraduate research courses. The discussions were not complete but they

provided an update to the committee. Included was the proposal to differentiate levels of undergraduate research (Introduction/Directed 1/Directed 2/Independent) to provide clearer direction for both faculty and students. While the thought had been to have different sets of numbers for regular and honors versions of these courses, Brian Aneskievich reported that Pharmacy achieves this distinction by use of section number and it was decided to proceed this way. It was also decided that the term "instructor" was preferable to "faculty" since advanced graduate students might sometimes direct these experiences.

The current draft is appended to these minutes.

4. The issue of reading days has been officially returned to the committee. The regional campuses do not like the Thursday reading day since it shifts exams to Friday, when often classes do not meet and students may have other commitments. Lauren emphasized that all campuses of the university have to follow the same schedule. Others dislike the reading day because it comes late after many students have completed the bulk of their exams. This situation has been improved by spreading exams out so that more of them come after the reading day. Stuart Brown was added to the group developing questions for surveys of students and faculty on the reading day to give regional campus perspectives. A useful question for students would be "How did you spend your reading day?" The issue of the reading day only occurring in the fall was raised. There is more need for it in the fall if it is viewed as a potential make up day for inclement weather. Adding it to the spring semester would require moving Commencement. It was pointed out that some other institutions do hold commencement exercise on weekdays.
5. There was brief discussion of the issue of who should chair SSC next year, given that Hedley has served for the suggested 2-year term. All agree, given the nature of the committee's business, that it should be a faculty member.
6. The meeting adjourned at 11.30.

Next meeting 4/5 at 10 AM.

***Research Experience Courses Proposal
Scholastic Standards
February 1, 2017***

Background

The University has a variety of course numbers reserved for courses such as special topics, research, honors thesis, independent study, etc. However, these courses are not approved for all departments, they are not used consistently by the various departments across campus, and there is no shared definitions across disciplines. This causes myriad issues for many students, staff and faculty. Students are unaware of options, faculty are unsure of what course they should offer a student, and there is often an inability to report on and assess the number of these offerings by departments.

Proposal

In order to provide consistency throughout the University it is proposed that every department has the attached list of courses created with the same general course description. Also, if there are courses identified to have the last two digits in these core courses that those courses are changed to a new number.

Course type	Number	Definition
Field study/Field experience	xx80 or xx90	Credit awarded for applied academic work done in the field as a component of a student's academic program
Internship	xx81 or xx91	Credit awarded for professional work done in the field that may or not be part of a student's academic program
Practicum	xx82 or xx92	Credit awarded for work done where the primary purpose to apply information from coursework in a practical setting and aiding a student's professional development (may be used for licensure programs)
Foreign Study	xx83 or xx93	Credit assigned to courses taken abroad which are not direct equivalents of a Uconn course.
Seminar	xx84 or xx94	Gives students the experience to critically understand a specialized subject area
Special Topics	xx85 or xx95	A course offering approved on a provisional basis for developmental purposes only (pilot).
Thesis	xx86 or xx96	Credits earned by students for the writing of their thesis
Honors Thesis	xx87 or xx97	Credits earned by honors students for the writing of their thesis
Variable Topics	xx88 or xx98	A course that is offered seasonally or based on instructor availability (ie. During an election year). Also frequently used by visiting experts.
Undergraduate Research	xx89	Credit earned by engaging in academic research under the supervision of a faculty member.

	1x39	Introduction to Research Introduction to the practice of research for beginning students. S/U graded.
	1x49	Introduction to Research Introduction to the practice of research for beginning students
	2x39	Directed Research 1 Introductory research conducted under the supervision of the instructor. S/U graded.
	2x49	Directed Research 1 Introductory research conducted under the supervision of the instructor
	3x39	Directed Research 2. Prerequisite Directed Research 1. Research conducted under the supervision of the instructor. S/U graded.
	3x49	Directed Research 2. Prerequisite Directed Research 1. Research conducted under the supervision of the instructor
	4x39	Independent Research. Prerequisite ? Student-initiated research activities. S/U graded.
	4x49	Independent Research. Prerequisite ? Student-initiated research activities
Independent Study	xx99	Credits earned by pursuing individual academic interests under the supervision of a faculty sponsor.
*Honors Research	Xx59 or XX69	Honors credit earned by engaging in academic research under the supervision of a faculty member.

*Course has not been created but we would like to use this series when created. Develop different levels to parallel Undergraduate Research sequence listed above. Does Honors sequence require alternate S/U grading basis?

Both undergraduate research and independent study need alternate 3 digit to allow for S/U grading basis. Perhaps 89/99 for ind study, 39/49 for research, 59/69 for honors research
Field studies/experiences/internships/practicums all needed. Just need catalog descriptions. Make it clear that this is not for research. Make them all at the 3xxx level.