

## Minutes

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee (SSSC)

September 12, 2013

Hall Dorm, Room 123, 3:00 PM

SSSC Members (attending in **BOLD**): **Gerald Gianutsos (Chair), Robin Chazdon, David Clokey, Joseph Crivello, Dipak Dey, Lauren DiGrazia**, Johann Peter Gogarten, **Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Elena Innes** (Undergraduate student representative), **Jennifer Lease Butts** (ex-officio), **Jill Livingston, Felicia Pratto, Thomas Recchio**.

Guest: **Sally Reis** (Vice Provost).

1. Minutes of the 4/18/13 meeting were approved.
2. Change in Residency requirement – Vice Provost Reis discussed a proposed change in the [catalog copy](#) which would limit the number of transfer credits for UCONN students matriculating as freshman (see details in appendix). There was considerable discussion of both the proposed change and the need for further discussion in the future of related issues, including making exceptions for students with financial limitations, reconsideration of the repeat forgiveness rule, increasing summer session offerings, and consideration of changes in the residency requirement for transfer students.

It was moved (Recchio) and seconded (Crivello) that the following sentence in the [catalog](#) “Students must earn a minimum of thirty credits in-residence toward a degree at the University, though particular schools and colleges may require more” be replaced with the following: “Students who matriculate at UConn as freshmen must earn a minimum of 90 credits in-residence at UConn. Students can transfer in up to 30 credits, of which no more than 15 can be general education credits.” The motion passed without dissent. [In a subsequent email vote, it was agreed that this would be submitted to the Senate as a change in the by-laws §2.C.1.b.]

It was also recommended that the proposal be sent to the Student Welfare Committee for their input.

3. Committee Assignments – Joe Crivello agreed to represent the SSSC on the Senate Growth and Development Committee. A representative to the Senate Diversity Committee still needs to be identified.
4. Future Agenda Items – The SSSC briefly discussed some possible issues that could be brought forward at future meetings. These include: A requirement for course syllabi, grade changes for UICC courses, bunched final assessments, changes in the freshman orientation program, the impact of increases in non-native English speaking students on

the Freshman English program, the Testing Center, Honors credit for graduate courses, the summer session calendar, and grading in courses with a laboratory component.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 26, 3:00 – 4:30 PM, Hall Dorm Rm. 123.

## Appendix 1

### Rationale for Limiting the Number of Transfer Credits for UConn Students Who Matriculate as Freshmen Sally Reis and Wayne Locust

Currently, UConn students “must earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence toward a degree at the university” and we accept 90 credits of transfer in all Bachelor’s programs, except Nursing and Pharmacy, and Engineering (which accept 96-109).

From the “General Catalog”:

**University-Wide Residence Requirement.** It is expected that advanced course work in the major will be completed in residence. **Students must earn a minimum of thirty credits in-residence toward a degree at the University, though particular schools and colleges may require more.** Courses taken at the University and through the University's Study Abroad, National Student Exchange and Early College Experience programs are all deemed in-residence. Students desiring to transfer credits should be aware of residence requirements in the individual schools and colleges, and should request necessary permissions in advance. Students seeking exceptions to any additional residence requirements of a school or college must petition the dean or director of the appropriate program from which they will earn their degree.

Our suggested new language that would replace the highlighted yellow sentence above is as follows: “Students who matriculate at UConn as freshmen must earn a minimum of 90 credits in-residence at UConn. **Students can transfer in up to 30 credits, of which no more than 15 can be general education credits.**”

This change would not apply to AP credits or UConn ECE credits (all deemed in-residence), nor does it apply to study abroad or U.S. military veterans.

This change is very important to protect academic integrity at UConn. In last year’s senior class, for example, 2,020 students transferred in 16,262 credits, with an average credit transfer of 8.1 credits per student. The top five institutions from which they transferred the credits are as follows, in order of frequency:

Norwalk Community College: 2023 credits  
Manchester Community College: 853 credits  
Naugatuck Community College: 845 credits  
Gateway Community College: 784 credits  
Housatonic Community College: 629 credits

Of the 2,020 seniors who transferred in credits, 76 transferred in more than 36 credits during their time at UConn, and 126 transferred in between 16 and 36 credits. Many of our students are taking easier and cheaper classes elsewhere, and our data trends suggest that if they take a pre-requisite at a community college, they often fail the subsequent courses they take here at UConn. Currently, if students fail a course at UConn, they can repeat a course and transfer in a grade from the same course at any of the community colleges and have that replace the failure.

Most aspirant institutions severely limit the number of transfer credits for four year students who matriculate as freshman—we seek to have a similar but more generous policy. Northwestern University, for example, limits the number of transfer credits for freshman to 6 credits. Duke has a similar policy: “You are allowed transfer credit for a maximum of two courses taken at another accredited college or university in the United States after you have matriculated at Duke.” Dartmouth has a similar policy: "Students may transfer up to a total of four credits to Dartmouth throughout their academic career."

The most frequent classes transferred into UConn are general education courses, and, in a careful analysis of the data, it appears clear that the majority of our students are transferring in the most challenging general education classes, as indicated by this list of the classes most frequently transferred:

ACCT	2001	LEC
BIOL	1107	LAB
	1107	LEC
CHEM	1127Q	LAB
	1127Q	LEC
	1128Q	LAB
	1128Q	LEC
ECON	1201	LEC
MATH	1131Q	LEC
	1132Q	LEC
PHIL	1104	LEC
PHYS	1201Q	LAB
	1201Q	LEC
PSYC	1100	LEC

We believe a UConn degree should consist primarily of UConn courses. We seek your input on this change—which we believe will address issues of academic integrity and student success at UConn.