

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee 2015/2016

Meeting Minutes 11/5/2015

2.00 – 3.30 PM

Senate Conference Room, Hall Dorm

Members present: Karen Bresciano, Stuart Brown (by phone), Robin Coulter, Susanna Cowan, Joe Crivello, Lauren DiGrazia, Hedley Freake (chair), Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Doni Ivanov, Jennifer Lease Butts (ex-officio), Mackenzie Morrison, Eric Schultz, Annelie Skoog, Gina Stuart, David Wagner.

1. Committee members introduced themselves and welcomed USG representatives Doni Ivanov and Mackenzie Morrison
2. The minutes from 10/22/15 were approved.
3. Report back from SEC.

The SEC discussed conduct of Senate meetings and agreed that discussion of motions concerning bylaw changes should happen at the first as well as the second readings. This will allow the sentiments of senators to be assessed and may allow time saving amendments to be proposed at the second reading.

The SEC also agreed that GEOC was the appropriate body to discuss the question of whether students be required to pass the laboratory portion of CA3 lab courses in order to pass the course.
4. Old business
 - a. Admissions bylaws update

The committee had already electronically approved the motion to change the bylaws governing admissions but during that process a few additional questions had been raised. The committee considered each of these questions, which in some cases required minor changes to the proposed new language. A motion to approve the modified document (proposed Karen, seconded Joe) was passed unanimously.

It was suggested that the SEC be strongly urged to read the motion carefully before it is brought to the Senate and that Track Changes be used to present the changes in language to make it easier to follow the changes proposed.
 - b. Language for adding classes requiring instructor consent

When the Senate recently passed changes to the bylaws that govern adding or dropping courses, a sentence noting that normal consent rules were still in operation was removed, probably because it was felt to be unnecessary under current registration procedures. However, this leads to ambiguity in relation to the permissions required for adding courses at different points in time. The committee considered many ways in which to resolve the issue and in the end decided simply to propose reinsertion of the sentence that had been removed.

It was also noted that given the difficulties associated with updating bylaws, consideration should be given to crafting entirely new language consistent with the perceived intent, rather than trying to modify the old language.

c. Bylaw changes to allow electronic signatures

An internal audit of procedures in the registrar's office revealed that the bylaws contain no provision for electronic signatures to indicate required approvals. Following discussion with the SEC, the SSSC agreed to craft such language to be inserted into the miscellaneous section at the end of the bylaws.

The initial audit finding related to grade change processes and a careful reading of that section of the bylaws revealed other ways in which they differed from current procedures. Thus it was decided to defer the electronic signature question until the other issues about grade change procedures were resolved.

5. Other Business

There was a short discussion on the usefulness (or lack thereof) of the reading day currently scheduled into the fall final examination period. This is currently under consideration by the Student welfare Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 3.30 PM

The next meeting will be held Thursday 11/19 in the Senate Conference Room.