

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee 2015/2016

Meeting Minutes 12/10/2015

2.00 – 3.30 PM

Senate Conference Room, Hall Dorm

Members present: Brian Aneskievich, Karen Bresciano, Stuart Brown (by phone), Robin Coulter, Susanna Cowan, Joe Crivello, Hedley Freake (chair), Lawrence Gramling, Doni Ivanov, Jennifer Lease Butts (ex-officio), Jill Livingston, Mackenzie Morrison, Erin Mason (for Lauren DiGrazia), Eric Schultz, Gina Stuart, Ellen Tripp, David Wagner.

1. The minutes from 11/5/15 were approved.
2. Old business

a. Admissions bylaws

Issues arising from the first presentation of the new Admissions By-Laws to the Senate were discussed. In response to the concern that the new language concerning high school course requirements was less stringent than the old, it was determined that the new language was sufficient, described minimum standards that comprised the same course load as the old, and that the by-laws were not the place to offer advice to prospective applicants. A second concern related to the use of the term “unit” to quantify requirements but this was deemed preferable to “credits” that has different interpretations or “year” that does not take into account alternative scheduling patterns. “Language of nurture” was also questioned as an unfamiliar term but the alternatives, “first language” or “native language” also have issues. It was decided to leave the text as is but be open to suggestions for change from the floor of the Senate.

The last item raised at the Senate meeting concerned the provision for home schooled applicants. The intent had been to include such applicants under section 1.a.:

“Each applicant shall have graduated from, or have completed 16 units in, an approved secondary school”

since home school programs have to be approved in the State of Connecticut. To make this clearer, the committee voted to add “or program” to the end of this sentence.

b. Time limits for changes to temporary grades

The by-laws on use of temporary grading marks (X/I/N) were reviewed. After some discussion, it was concluded that the current by-laws were poorly organized and would benefit from better definition of the temporary grade marks. Joe, Robin, Doni and Hedley agreed to work on them and present a revised version at the next meeting.

c. Minors by-law language

Katrina and Larry had not found the time to work on by-law language but Larry reviewed the history of minors at this university. Students are attracted to them but can have

difficulty gaining access to required courses. Perhaps they should be more flexible and also have a “front end” to clarify who is in them.

3. New Business

a. Reading Days

There was insufficient time to hear from Mackenzie on student attitudes towards Reading Days and this will be added to the agenda for the spring.

The meeting adjourned at 3.30 PM

A doodle poll will be sent at the beginning of the new year to schedule meetings for the spring semester.