

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee 2015/2016

Meeting Minutes 2/22/2016

2.00 – 3.30 PM

Senate Conference Room, Hall Dorm

Members present: Brian Aneskievich, Stuart Brown, Robin Coulter, Susanna Cowan, Lauren DiGrazia, Hedley Freake (chair), Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Doni Ivanov, Jennifer Lease Butts, Jill Livingston, Eric Schultz, Gina Stuart Ellen Tripp, David Wagner.

1. The minutes from 1/25/16 were approved.
2. Report back from the February Senate meeting.

The motions to reinsert the sentence on instructor consent in the Add/Drop by-law was approved. The new Admissions by-laws were also approved after some discussion and two modifications. The phrase “generally corresponding to two years” was inserted parenthetically after “Two units” in the high school requirements for foreign language. Also the term “first language” was preferred to “language of nurture.”

3. Lauren DiGrazia updated the committee on some changes being made to the final exam schedule in an attempt to minimize bunched finals. The Dean of Students office deals with 1500 requests for rescheduling each semester. Changes involve moving the exam blocks for some exams, including switching some Monday exams to Tuesday. Time of exam will be added to the listings in Peoplesoft.
4. Old business. Grading by-laws. Discussion continued on rewriting the by-laws governing grades and in particular those covering temporary grades. Reworked language produced by the ad hoc group (Robin, Joe, Karen, Doni and Hedley) since the last meeting was reviewed. The necessity for and definition of the N grade was debated and ultimately the committee voted to retain it. The alternative would be to assign F grades in those circumstances and faculty are reluctant to do so when the basis of lack of work is not apparent. In addition, N sends a different message to advisors and the registrar. Faculty are unclear about the use of temporary grades and the definitions should allow clear distinction between them. The order of listing the temporary grades was changed and the language adjusted to better make these distinctions. The current proposed version is:

Temporary Grade	Conditions for Assigning a Temporary Grade
N No basis for grade	A student has completed few or no assignments and no make-up schedule has been agreed upon with the instructor; the faculty has no basis for a grade.
I Incomplete Work	A student has not completed all of the assessments or assignments but work completed is of passing quality and a make-up schedule has been agreed upon with the instructor.
X Final assessment absence	A student did not submit a final assessment and might by means of a satisfactory performance on the assessment complete the work with a passing grade. If in the opinion of the instructor such a student would fail the course regardless of the result of the assessment, the student shall be given a grade of F. Procedures for rescheduling final assessments are described in II.E.12, <i>Examinations and Assessments</i> .

5. There was no time for New Business. The Academic Adjustments policy and problems associated with late adds during Add/Drop will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3.35 PM