

## Senate Scholastic Standards Committee 2015/2016

Meeting Minutes 4/11/2016

2.00 – 3.30 PM

Senate Conference Room, Hall Dorm

Members present: Brian Aneskievich, Karen Bresciano, Stuart Brown, Robin Coulter, Susanna Cowan, Joe Crivello, Hedley Freake (chair), Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Jennifer Lease Butts, Jill Livingston, Annelie Skoog, Gina Stuart, David Wagner.

1. The minutes from 3/28/16 were approved as sensible and intelligent.
2. Discussion continued of the grading by-laws. Robin Coulter had provided many suggestions and comments on the previous draft and the committee worked through those to complete review of the document. A clean version of the proposed new by-law sections is appended. Among the points discussed were:
  - a. The basis for different grade thresholds for sophomore/junior/senior status for various schools/colleges was not apparent. Lauren DiGrazia has been looking into this but this item remains to be resolved prior to submitting these changes for approval.
  - b. The by-laws are quite variable with respect to how they refer to letter grades (A, 'A', "A" are all used). The committee decided that this should be standardized to 'A' and Hedley Freake will prepare a motion for the consent agenda to make this blanket change. This will apply only to the text, not tables.
  - c. Mid-semester reports need to be better publicized among the faculty. Within the by-law, the cut-off point to require reporting was changed from 'D' to less than a 'C' to be consistent with current practice.
3. The committee had previously decided that language concerning minors should be added to the by-laws. The committee considered a draft prepared by Katrina Higgins and Larry Gramling, made some changes in language and approved the following text:

While not required for graduation, a minor provides an option for students who want to add breadth to their academic program. A minor is available only to a matriculated student currently pursuing a baccalaureate degree. Minors will consist of 12 - 18 credits of 2000+ level course work. Unless a higher standard is noted in the description of a specific minor program, completion of a minor requires that a student earn a 'C' or better in each of the required courses for that minor. The same course may be used to meet both major and minor course requirements unless specifically stated otherwise. Substitutions to minor requirements require the approval of the head or designee of the department or program offering the minor. The minor is recorded on the student's official transcript.

A motion will be prepared for the fall to insert this paragraph as section II C 1h of the University Senate By-laws.

4. Stuart Brown raised the issue of whether first year students should have access to 3 and 4000 level classes, for which they may well not be prepared. The view of the committee that this was best dealt with on a course by course basis where restrictions on enrollment can be set as needed.
5. Discussion started on issues around student misconduct. Changes to be considered would broaden the definition to include disadvantaging others as well as advantaging self and distinguish between intentional plagiarism and clumsy citation practice. It also needs to be made clear that student misconduct can occur outside of coursework, for example with SURF applications.
6. The meeting adjourned at 3.30 PM.