

**Annual Report to the University Senate of the  
Senate Scholastic Standards Committee  
2015-2016 Academic Year**

*Scholastic Standards presented four motions and one consent agenda proposal to amend the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University Senate during the 2015-2016 AY. Two additional motions are ready for presentation in the fall 2016 semester.*

**Motions Presented**

**II.B.10 Adding or Dropping Courses**

This amendment clarified policies and procedures for dropping courses during the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> weeks of classes, clarifying use of the 'W' designation. It also changed references to the first 2 weeks of classes to the first 10 days to better accord with financial aid regulations.

Approved October 12 2015.

A supplementary motion was brought to the Senate to reinsert a sentence on instructor consent into this section of the By-Laws, since its omission created ambiguity.

Approved February 1 2016.

**F.3. University Scholars**

This amendment updated the eligibility and curricula for the University Scholars program, removing out of date procedural language and recognizing the role of the University Scholar Oversight and Selection Committee.

Approved October 12 2015.

**II.A. Admissions**

Scholastic Standards completed a thorough review of the Admissions By-Laws primarily in the previous academic year but extending into the fall 2015 semester. The existing By-Laws were inaccurate and outdated and a completely new draft of this section was brought to the Senate.

Approved February 1 2016.

**Consent Agenda Proposal**

All references within the text of the By-Laws to letter grades should use single quotation marks, i.e. 'A'

To be presented May 2, 2016.

**Motions in Preparation for Fall 2016**

**11.E Scholastic Standing**

The University Auditors suggested that updates were required to the By-Laws concerning changes to course grades. While making these revisions, the committee determined that many other parts of the Scholastic Standards sections of the By-Laws concerning were unclear or out of date and not in accord with current practice. It

therefore undertook a thorough revision of these sections that will be completed by the end of the academic year.

To be presented during the 2016-2017 AY.

### **Minors**

The by-laws are silent on the subject of minors but these are popular with students. While their governance can be left to the schools and colleges, some overarching language to be included in the by-laws would be helpful. This language was crafted and presented to the SEC, with the intention of bringing it to the Senate during the 2016-2017 AY.

*In addition to the discussions that resulted in the above approved and planned motions, Scholastic Standards considered several other items that did not require Senate action. Among them were:*

- A requirement to pass the laboratory component of a General Education CA3 lab course in order to pass the course. While there was no opposition to this idea, it was thought to be the purview of GEOC and Senate Curricula and Courses Committee.
- Readmissions after dismissal policy for Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture students. Given the altered time-scale of the 2-year degree program, adjustment of this policy was deemed appropriate and a memorandum of understanding between Ratcliffe Hicks and the Dean of Students Office was completed.
- A concern that students can graduate with baccalaureate degrees without taking courses above the 2000 level. It was determined that this problem was restricted to the biology departments of CLAS and that they are dealing with it.
- Reading Days. The usefulness of the current system was discussed including hearing about a survey of students on the topic. The Student Welfare Committee is currently considering Reading Days and the SSC will await the results of their deliberations.

*To better facilitate communication across the Senate, two members of Scholastic Standards served as representatives on other Senate Standing Committees. The Committee also consulted with other knowledgeable members of the University community to facilitate its work.*

### **Cross-Representatives on Committees**

Scholastic Standards values communication as a vehicle for informed discussion and decision-making. To that end, Scholastic Standards elects two members to serve on Senate Standing Committees: Joseph Crivello was elected to serve on Growth and Development and Katrina Higgins was elected to serve on Diversity. Further, the committee accepted Eric Shultz, as an elected representative from Curricula and Courses. In addition, Joe Crivello represented SSC on the Honors Advisory Board.

### **Consultations**

Scholastic Standards would like to thank those who provided consultation on matters under consideration: Nathan Fuerst (Director of Admissions) and Jill Thorne and Brian Boecherer (Early College Experience) provided extensive consultation to Scholastic Standards on the Admissions By-Laws.

The committee is also grateful to Cheryl Galli for the assistance she provided over the course of the year and to Jill Livingston for acting as chair during Hedley Freake's absence for part of the fall semester.

Respectfully submitted,

Hedley Freake (Chair)

2015-2016 Senate Scholastic Standards Committee Members:

Brian Aneskievich, Karen Bresciano, Stuart Brown, Jennifer Lease Butts, David Clokey, Robin Coulter, Susanna Cowan, Joseph Crivello, Kacie Davis, Lauren DiGrazia, Hedley Freake, Lawrence Gramling, Katrina Higgins, Doni Ivanov, Jill Livingston, Mackenzie Morrison, Eric Schultz, Annelie Skoog, Gina Suart, Ellen Tripp, David Wagner.