

Minutes of February 19, 2018

Attendees: Veronica Makowsky (chair), Greg Bouquot, Stuart Brown, Jennifer Lease Butts, David Clokey, Joe Crivello, Hedley Freake, Robin Grenier, Katrina Higgins, Jill Livingston (recorder), Gina Stuart (replacing Jean Main)

Absent: Attendees: Brian Aneskievich, Robert Bosco, Karen Bresciano, Nithisha Chittajallu, Robin Coulter, Susanna Cowan, Peter Diplock, Holly Fitch, Gretchen Geer, Larry Gramling, Ellen Tripp, David Wagner

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- I. Veronica called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and shared that she had received one question about the Motion to amend the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University Senate 11.C.1 and 11.C.1.g, Minimum Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees. She had presented this Motion at the February 5, 2018 Senate meeting. Question: Since there is only one degree, the student only needs to meet the major requirements, not the general education requirements for the second major, but would have to meet all School/College requirements for the primary major: correct? Do we need clarifying language?
SSC concluded that students must meet all requirements of each degree as stipulated in the motion; no change in language is needed. Greg Bouquot noted that it will be difficult to figure out how to implement this By-Laws change in PeopleSoft.
- II. Minutes of the SSC Meeting of February 5, 2018
Joe Crivello made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Katrina Higgins and approved by all.
- III. Volunteers for the SSC/FSC Subcommittee on Academic Integrity?
Discussion: Mark Boyer got several volunteers from Faculty Standards for a subcommittee on Academic Integrity. This committee will use this year to scope the problem, so that both committees can figure out how to tackle the issue next year.
Decisions: Joe Crivello, Stuart Brown, and Katrina Higgins volunteered. Veronica will reach out to Cinnamon Adams, who was suggested by Karen Bresciano.

IV. The Last Weeks of the Semester

Greg and Brian Rockwood discussed ways to make the final exam schedule better for students and faculty and developed an alternate final exam schedule. Greg presented a model schedule for Spring 2018 to SSC.

The schedule provides a reading day on Wednesday, with Thursday/Friday exams. Saturday is allotted for Commons, exams which are taken by ~2,000 students. Sunday would also be a reading day.

Benefits:

- Weekends will have more of an academic focus.
- Each exam day provides for a break from 1-3 p.m., which will help with bunched finals, as well as offer a reprieve during day, and allow easier scheduling for make-up exams.
- More time for grading.
- Accommodates faculty desire to keep exams on the same day as classes. Tu/Th are busier teaching days so Tu/Sat are busier days for finals.

Related considerations:

- Fall semester poses more problems than Spring because of weather.
- Regionals have not given Saturday exams in the past. The Registrar will need to work with Regionals to determine the best way to schedule exams for the regional campuses.
- Regionals do not have Commons, so regional students would have two reading days on the weekends.
- Since there are 7 days of classes, students will likely get an additional reading day during the exam period.
- Implementation date is to be determined. It is possible to offer this in the Fall, if approved.
- M/W/F classes would lose 2 instruction days and Tu/Th classes would lose one.
- It may be beneficial to communicate with faculty and the undergraduate student government prior to presenting this as a motion.

Decisions:

SSC asked Greg to work with Brian to provide two alternate schedules. Greg will provide the first requested schedule soon, but it will take longer to work on the second schedule:

- 1) Shift the schedule to a Thursday reading day, with Friday as the first exam day. In this model, both M/W/F and Tu/Th would only lose one day of classes. Thurs/Fri becomes Fri/Mon. Saturday stays the same.

- 2) Provide a model that maximizes best possible scheduling for the purpose of spacing exams and avoiding bunched finals. This approach would not necessarily keep exams on the same day as classes. It would allow UConn to have a set finals schedule, which could be firm by the time students register for classes.

Katrina Higgins will put Veronica in touch with Alma, chair of the USG, undergraduate student affairs section.

Veronica will talk about this at SEC meeting on Friday.

At its next meeting, SSC will decide how to move forward.

V. Any other business to resolve or to begin this semester?

Veronica requested we discuss Add/drop deadlines. Students can start classes up to 2 weeks after the semester starts. This presents difficulties as students have already missed a fair amount of work by that point. Solutions were brainstormed:

- Some departments require permission to add later, but this can lead to a lot of permission requests.
- Faculty can contact the Registrar to request a course be put on consent, which would mean that after classes start, a permission number is required to register.
- Faculty can put a notice on their syllabus related to expectations for making up work for missed classes at the start of the semester.
- There can be reserve caps.
- Classes can be restricted to those in the major.

Stuart Brown requested we look at whether first semester freshman with a GPA that is half of minimum could be eligible for first semester dismissal. This was past practice. When he is able, Greg will pull statistics to determine at what GPAs students statistically do not make it.

SEC may ask SSC to consider the academic side of education abroad—policies, procedures, and oversight of awarding academic credit for institutions outside of UConn. Global Affairs asked for this review. If SEC gives us this charge, Veronica will schedule an SSC meeting with Yuhang Rong.

VI. Next Meeting: Monday, March 5, 2018; 2:00-3:30 PM, School of Business 302

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.