

Minutes of April 30, 2018

Attendees: Veronica Makowsky (chair), Brian Aneskevich, Maureen Armstrong, Greg Bouquot, Karen Bresciano, Stuart Brown (via phone), Jennifer Lease Butts, Robin Coulter, Susanna Cowan, Joe Crivello, Hedley Freake, Larry Gramling, Robin Grenier, Katrina Higgins, Jill Livingston (recorder)

Absent: Robert Bosco, Nithisha Chittajallu, David Clokey, Peter Diplock, Holly Fitch, Gretchen Geer, Gina Stuart, Ellen Tripp, David Wagner

Guest: Erin Mason (Associate Registrar)

I. Call to Order

Veronica Makowsky called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Joe Crivello made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Katrina Higgins. The minutes were approved.

III. Consideration of Global Affairs Addition to By-Laws

Discussion:

SSC reviewed the Global Affairs By-Laws document and made only editorial changes.

Decisions:

Joe Crivello made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Katrina Higgins. The Global Affairs By-Laws document, as amended, was approved.

Veronica will share the approved document to Yuhang Rong, Assistant Vice Provost for Global Affairs. She will also put this topic on a fall agenda. Barring any issues, the By-Laws will be presented to the SEC and put on a Fall Semester Senate agenda for discussion and vote.

IV. Consideration of Further Revisions to Final Assessments and Calendar

Discussion:

Since our last meeting, Robin Coulter met with and received feedback from the Student Government's Academic Affairs Committee. Erin Mason, Registrar's Office, also provided input.

Weeks in a semester: Erin Mason called the committee's attention to the language on page 4 of the handout packet that defined the weeks in a semester. UConn is defined at the federal level as a traditional semester-based institution. According to federal requirements, semesters need to be 14-17 weeks in duration. Thus, language was edited to reflect that there will be two 15-week semesters each year.

It remains to be determined the impact of the shortened semester on laboratory courses. Though life sciences labs run 10 weeks, the duration of labs for other departments, such as Engineering and Nursing, is unknown. SSC would like to vet this change with the Senate prior to presenting it as a formal by-laws motion for discussion/vote in order to determine impact of the various changes. Veronica may present the motion, for discussion purposes only, to the Senate in the Fall Semester.

Length of final assessments: Final assessments exceeding two hours (e.g. fine arts performances) have heretofore have not been recognized in the By-Laws, nor scheduled by the Registrar. Determining eligibility of these assessments for bunched finals poses difficulty for the Dean of Students Office, which uses the finals schedule to determine which assessments are eligible for rescheduling. SSC revised language, making it more explicit that all assessments given during the final assessment period must be scheduled by the Registrar. The Registrar will need to determine how to initiate scheduling for two consecutive blocks. Because the new process enables scheduling of final assessments at the beginning of the semester, it will be possible for the Registrar to establish a deadline for instructors to request changes to the scheduled block.

Decisions:

Veronica will ask John Volin, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, if she can speak to the department heads in the fall to discuss final assessments and other important SSC motions as well as existing by-laws that need to be better communicated to the faculty and monitored by the department heads.

SSC will consider adding valuable information to the Provost's policies for syllabi (References for Syllabi Links: <https://provost.uconn.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/syllabi-references/>).

Next year SSC hopes to have a student representative from the student government's Academic Affairs Committee.

V. Report from the Subcommittee on Academic Misconduct Policy to the Scholastic Standards and Faculty Standards Committees of the University Senate (April 18, 2018)

Discussion:

SSC briefly discussed next steps, particularly the recommendation that a subcommittee be formed to make a recommendation to the Senate regarding changes in the current Academic Misconduct policy. This issue falls within the purview of three Senate committees (Student Welfare, Faculty Standards, and SSC).

Karen Bresciano has information about policies at other institutions and can provide this data upon request. Karen will send it to Veronica so that it can also be found on the SSC HuskyCT site under Academic Integrity.

Decisions:

Veronica will bring this issue to an SEC meeting with chairs in the Fall to determine how this work will be done.

VI. Possible Business for the Fall:

- A. Last look at Global Affairs**
- B. Last look at Final Assessments and Calendar changes for the by-laws**
- C. Academic Integrity**
- D. Transfer admissions courses requirements, including online lab and foreign language courses and transfer credits—should departments be able to decide whether to allow transfers as opposed to university-wide standards and prohibitions?**
- E. Communications pieces to go out to faculty, department heads**
- F. Definitions for research, practica, etc. C&C suggested to Jennifer and Hedley that they go to all departmental C&C. SSC will review the subcommittee's work.**
- G. Other?**

VII. Other Old or New Business?

No old or new business.

VIII. Adjournment

The committee thanked Veronica for her work this year. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.