University Senate Meeting Agenda
February 1, 2021

A regular meeting of the University Senate will be held on
Monday, February 1, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. via WebEx
Meeting link sent directly to Senate Members
Public access link: https://ait.uconn.edu/university-senate-meeting/

The Agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. Call to order and Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2020 University Senate meeting
2. Report of the President
   Presented by President Tom Katsouleas
3. Report of the Senate Executive Committee
   Presented by SEC Chair Carol Atkinson-Palombo
4. Consent Agenda Items:
   Report of the Senate Curricula and Courses Committee
5. Report from Senate Scholastic Standards Committee by Senator Bedore
   PRESENTATION of a motion to amend the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University By-Laws
   II.B.10, Adding or Dropping Courses
   PRESENTATION of a motion to amend the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University By-Laws
   II.1.5 Syllabi
6. Report from Senate Faculty Standards Committee by Senator Holle
   VOTE on motion to endorse recommendation to amend the University By-Laws, Section IX.K.2
   (Retirement, Emeritus Status)
7. Report from Academic Affairs
   UEI report presented by Vice Provost Michael Bradford
   Regional Campus Updates presented by Provost Carl Lejuez
8. New Business

Senate Executive Committee
Carol Atkinson-Palombo, Chair
Pam Bramble                               Gary English
Nafis Fuad                                 Michael Hernandez
Andrea Hubbard                             Deb Kendall
Gustavo Nanclares                         Angela Rola
Eric Schultz                               Manuela Wagner

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No Record-COVID

A. Background:
Given the ongoing mental and emotional strain caused by the pandemic, many students have had to withdraw from courses during AY 20/21. Given that the “W” grade is perceived as negative by some students, employers, and graduate programs, students have asked for a new grade that would clearly indicate that the W grade was received during the COVID era. This grade would be NRC: No Record-COVID.

Since the “W” and “NRC” are both administrative grades (rather than earned grades), there is no technical impact. Students who have a W on their transcript for Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 would be given the opportunity to choose between “W” and “NRC” for their transcript notation.

B. Current Relevant By-Laws

II.B.10. Adding or Dropping Courses
Students may drop courses before the end of the tenth day of classes without transcript notations. After the tenth day of classes and through the ninth week of the semester, a student may drop one course for any reason with permission from the student’s advisor. No student is permitted to drop a course after the ninth week of classes unless on the recommendation of the advisor, an exception is made by the dean or designee of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Exceptions are made only for extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. Poor academic performance is not considered a sufficient reason for dropping a course after the ninth week. Any course dropped after the first ten days of classes will receive a ‘W’ on the transcript. Exceptions to transcript notations can be made only by the Provost or designee.

C. Proposal to Senate: Motion

We propose to amend the By-Laws, Rules and Regulation of the University Senate for AY 20/21 as follows. By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University of Senate II.B.10.

Students may drop courses before the end of the tenth day of classes without transcript notations. After the tenth day of classes and through the ninth week of the semester, a student may drop one course for any reason with permission from the student’s advisor. No student is permitted to drop a course after the ninth week of classes or to drop more than one course after the first ten days of classes unless on the recommendation of the advisor, an exception is made by the dean or designee of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Exceptions are made only for extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. Poor academic performance is not considered a sufficient reason for dropping a course after the ninth week. Any course dropped after the first ten days of classes will receive a ‘W’ on the transcript. Exceptions to transcript notations can be made only by the Provost or designee. During AY 20/21, students may select a transcript notation of ‘NRC’ (No Record-COVID) to replace the ‘W.’
Syllabi

A. Background:

In order to perform well and balance their workload, students benefit from a course schedule that outlines course material and deadlines for assignments. This permits for greater time management and increased academic performance. Additionally, a schedule assists in the achievement of learning objectives. Student authentication for distance education course sections is mandated by NECHE.

B. Current Relevant By-Laws

II.I.5 Syllabi

Faculty shall provide syllabi to students in their courses, including internships and independent studies. Syllabi shall specify what will be taught, how it will be taught, how learning will be assessed, and how grades will be assigned.

C. Proposal to Senate: Motion

We propose to amend the By-Laws, Rules and Regulation of the University Senate as follows with deleted items in strikethrough and new language underlined. By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University of Senate II.I.5.

Faculty shall provide syllabi to students in their courses, including internships and independent studies. Syllabi shall specify what will be taught, when and how it will be taught, when and how learning will be assessed, and how grades will be assigned, and (for distance education courses) how student identity will be authenticated.
Recommendation to update University By-Laws, Article IX.K.2a and Article IX.K.2b

A. Background

The SEC charged the Faculty Standards Committee to examine the current University By-Laws language on emeritus status. At the March 2017 meeting, the University Senate approved a motion to recommend changes to the University By-Laws regarding emeritus status (see below). The recommended change would have automatically awarded emeritus status to Associate Professors as well as Professors who have served the University at that rank for at least five years. Previously, the award of emeritus status to associate professors always required approval of the Retirement Committee. The recommended change did not have the support of senior administration at the time, and was not moved forward for consideration by the Board of Trustees. The FSC recommends a change in the relevant By-Laws.

Proposal and Approved by University Senate In March 2017: Motion

To recommend amending the University By-Laws, Section IX.K.2 as follows: (Deleted items in strikethrough; new language underlined).

Article XIV.K.2

a. The faculty member holds the rank of Associate Professor or full Professor (or equivalent title, such as e.g. Senior Extension Educator, Cooperative Extension Educator, Associate Cooperative Extension Educator, Extension Professor, and Associate Extension Professor) at the University of Connecticut.

b. The faculty member has served at the University of Connecticut for at least five years at this rank.

B. Current Relevant By-Laws

By-Laws of the University of Connecticut

Article XIV – The University Staff

K. Retirement

1. A faculty member’s decision to retire is understood to be an individual one, but in the interests of continuity and proper academic planning, it is expected that the faculty member will give notice of his/her plans at the earliest opportunity.

2. Any member of the faculty, who at the time of retirement is at the University of Connecticut and either retires under the provisions of the State Retirement Act or the Alternate Retirement Plan, may be awarded emeritus status. Also eligible is any member of the faculty who retires from an affiliated institution and whose promotion to rank of Professor in the School of Medicine or School of Dental Medicine was based on scholarship after review by the Senior Appointments and Promotions Committee, Dean, and Provost.

Appointment to emeritus status requires a positive vote of the Board of Trustees or Health Center Board of Directors (for faculty members with primary appointments in the School of Medicine or School of Dental Medicine). Candidates may be presented to the appropriate Board when both of the following conditions are met:

a. The faculty member holds the rank of full professor or equivalent title (e.g. Senior Extension Educator) at the University of Connecticut.

b. The faculty member has served at the University of Connecticut for at least five years at this rank.

There shall be a standing University of Connecticut Retirement Committee. Faculty members who do not meet both conditions described in Section 2a and Section 2b above may become emeriti by vote of the Board of Trustees or the Health Center Board of Directors following recommendation of the
President and the Retirement Committee. Other professional staff are also eligible for this designation following recommendation of the President and the Retirement Committee.

3. It is in the interest of the University that faculty emeriti continue their scholarly, teaching, and/or service activities. The University encourages the maintenance of informal and scholarly contacts between retired faculty members and their active colleagues and may provide working space, equipment, library facilities, and the like to all who can demonstrate reasonable need. Such support will be contingent upon availability of resources. Deans and department heads, where appropriate, may invite emeriti for professional activities such as lecturing, serving on academic committees, and advising students.

C. Current Proposal to Senate: Motion
To recommend amending the University By-Laws, Section IX.K.2 as follows: (Deleted items in strikethrough; new language underlined).

Article XIV.K.2
a. The faculty member holds the rank of Associate Professor or full Professor (or equivalent title, such as e.g. Clinical, In-Residence and Extension Faculty [CIRE]) Senior Extension Educator, Cooperative Extension Educator, Associate Cooperative Extension Educator, Extension Professor, and Associate Extension Professor) at the University of Connecticut.

b. The faculty member has served at the University of Connecticut for at least five years at this rank.

To recommend amending the University By-Laws, Section IX.K as follows: (Deleted items in strikethrough; new language underlined).

Article XIV.K
4. Emeritus status is a privilege, not a right, and can be revoked at any time at the request of the President and/or Retirement Committee with approval of the Board of Trustees.