

SCHOLASTIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE
September 13, 2021, 2:00-3:00PM
Via WebEx
Minutes

1. Today's Meeting Schedule – Adjourn by 3:00pm

New and returning Senate members are invited to join Senate Executive Committee Chair Del Siegle for an overview of the Senate's organization, committee structure, and function. The program will also include a discussion of Senate processes and norms.

<https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/uconn-cmr/j.php?MTID=m27110b538b188ffb6d77c6d307338bed>

2. From the Chairs

A. Rules of engagement (reminders)

- ✓ Electronic hands up to ensure – Holly/Robin run meeting/review hands up
- ✓ Agenda items will be prioritized
- ✓ Depending on the number of agenda items for a meeting, times may be allocated to make sure that we get through priority items.

B. Approval of the 8-30-21 Minutes

- a. Minutes Approved

C. Chair Reports

- ✓ At the Senate today – based on SEC feedback – HF will present the motion to move the deadlines for Pass-Fail and Withdraw to the end of the 11th week of the semester. The motion, because it is presented on and voted on at the same meeting, will require a 2/3rd majority to pass.

3. Pending Items

- A. *Contingent on Senate approval of the By-Law change to Pass-Fall and Withdraw deadlines, SSC expects to send the following request to SEC.*

To ensure student awareness of the changes to the By-Laws related to Pass-Fail and Withdraw deadlines as well as other student-focused information, SSC requests that designated staff from the Provost's Office, Dean of Students Office, Graduate School and Post Doctoral Student Affairs, and University Advising be charged with developing and promoting relevant communication to students, and highlighting or advertising existing support systems that enable students to be resilient and have grit during challenging events. Faculty, advising and student support staff are not able to help students who do not seek assistance. The key message for students should be... "When you find yourself facing challenging circumstances, don't wait – there are people who can help to determine a workable plan for proceeding

through the semester." In some cases, student action may mean dropping a course or placing it on pass/fail; in other cases, it may mean finding a tutor or working with other students; to identify possible solutions students must seek help. This portfolio of options is designed to address a breadth of student issues, and should be considered thoughtfully by students with appropriate counsel from faculty, advising and student support. The sooner in the semester these discussions begin, the better the outcomes.

Rationale for Proposal: The 11th week provides students with time to have assessments to gauge performance and will synchronize mechanisms to allow weighing based on circumstances.

Questions/Comments & future Agenda ideas:

It was noted by JC that during the Senate Meeting, there may be some resistance since we are beginning to phase out of Covid. HF will need to be prepared to assuage concerns about prolonged leniency legislation (which we are trying to avoid).

In the Senate meeting, SSC plans to emphasize that enrollment is not finalized until the end of the 10th day of class, with Withdrawal and pass-fail conversion going into effect through the end of the 11th week of classes. We previously agreed to promote a change in nomenclature for the first 10 days from "Withdraw/Drop" to just "Drop," as distinct from withdraw. HF will emphasize that <10 days is a Drop (no record), and >10 days a withdraw with W. JLB remarked that reflects registering for and dropping a course extends throughout the 10th day of the semester, and Add/Drop may not be the best terms (suggesting instead "active enrollment period.") *This may be addressed as a future Agenda item.*

During the Senate meeting, we can speak about how the issue of P-F and withdraw may come up in the future for students who have crises during the year, or in the future if something similar to Covid happens again.

The University does want to go back to normal, however SSC can use the things we have learned during Covid to make things better.

HF was reminded during the Senate meeting to please explain/emphasize the time and process the SSC has gone through to get to this motion.

The SSC will encourage that particular university entities provide communication regarding P-F/Withdraw changes so students understand their options and have a voice in their academic decisions (a non-vote Senate action). That suggestion will be presented by the Chairs & CG at the next SEC, pending approval of the date change legislation.

4. Upcoming Business

Change in Withdraw Date for ECE Program. *Contingent on the Senate action on the motion to change current By-Laws on Withdraw Deadline*, if approved, we anticipate bringing the following motion to SSC at the next meeting - related to the ECE program to maintain consistencies in withdrawal deadlines across student bodies. A reminder, ECE courses cannot be put on Pass-Fail.

SCr consulted with Brian Boecherer (Executive Director – Office of Early College Program) who is in agreement with the proposed By-Law change.

1. Current Relevant By-Laws
II.A.4, High School Students and Credit Bearing Course,

II.A.4 Admissions. High School Students and Credit Bearing Courses.

Students may withdraw from a course or from the ECE program up to five weeks before final grades are required; also the University or the secondary school may require withdrawal from specific courses or from the entire ECE program, per policies designated in the UConn ECE Policies and Procedures Guide.

II.A.4 Admissions. High School Students and Credit Bearing Courses.

Students may withdraw from a course or from the ECE program through the eleventh week of the semester. For courses taught outside the standard fall and spring semesters, these deadlines will be adjusted in a pro-rated fashion by the Registrar. The University or the secondary school may require withdrawal from specific courses or from the entire ECE program, per policies designated in the UConn ECE Policies and Procedures Guide.

Questions/Comments:

It was suggested that if we allow P/F and withdrawal to the regular student body, then we should allow this for the ECE students. ECE students are not able to use P/F because there is no mechanism for coding within High School GPA calculations. Therefore, we will amend only the application of the shift to W deadline.

This motion will be brought to Senate at the October meeting.

5. Subcommittee Check-ins

A. *Academic Integrity*

HF and JC – Mission is to represent SSC on external Provost's appointed Academic Integrity Committee led by Vice Provost Kersaint. HF & JC will report on progress to the SSC.

The Committee has yet to meet, nothing to report.

B. *Military Transfer Credit*

CHAIR: LW.

MEMBERS: Alyssa Kelleher, Michael Bradford, SCr.

Action: Statement about Military Transfer Credit, progress to date, and sub-committee agenda for Fall 2021 – expected by-law change brought to SSC.

Mission is to address mechanisms to recognize credits for work completed in military service.

Report - No Report

C. *Fresh Start*

CHAIR: LC

MEMBERS: EC., LW, NR, SCo, TL.

ACTION: Statement about the Fresh Start initiative, progress to date, and sub-committee agenda for Fall 2021, given an anticipated policy and/or bylaw change will be ready in Spring 2022. Mission is to address the timeframe over which students who depart UConn with poor grades could later return and pursue renewed study with a "clean" transcript.

Report: No report; Meeting on the Sept. 27th.

D. *"No Attendance" Status for Financial Aid*

CHAIR: GB

MEMBERS: Carrie Fernandes, HF, LS, MA, NR, SCr, SZ.

Action: Statement about the "No Attendance" Status for Financial Aid, progress on the analysis of peers and aspirants, and sub-committee agenda for Fall 2021, given an anticipated policy and/or bylaw change will be ready in Spring 2022. Mission is to address scenario where a student attended class, but submitted no work and failed, to verify that they still qualify for financial aid. Concerns reflect UConn being a non-attendance University so Profs. may not have mechanisms to verify attendance in such cases where no work/assessments have been submitted/completed.

Report: No Report

E. *Sick Notes*

CHAIR: MA

MEMBERS: CW, LS, CL.

ACTION: Statement about "Sick Notes" related to by-law regarding final exams and assessments, progress to date, and sub-committee agenda for Fall 2021.

Mission is to address conflicting advice from Admin & Student Health discouraging requests for verification of illness, versus Prof. concerns about widespread abuse of "self-reported" illness to evade assessments. It was noted that DOS requires documentation to reschedule Finals so this is not unprecedented.

Report: No Report

6. **New Business**

- a. EC.: Potential By-Law change for Dismissal/Probation for International Students. How do we manage the scholastic standings for international students who have not taken courses on the UConn campus.
 - i. We may come up with more information and discussion in a future meeting.

- b. LW.: We were working on high school students who have earned a bachelor's degree or higher, and need a group with faculty representation to with whom the Director of Admissions can consult with on transfer of credits.
- c. JLB.: SSC has to vote and approve the members of the Honors Board every year. This should be a future agenda item.

7. Adjourn Meeting

a. Meeting adjourned at 2:52 PM

Attendance: Robin Coulter (RC), Holly Fitch (HF), Christine Wenzel (CW), Thomas Long (TL), Joseph Crivello (JC), Lindsay Cummings (LC), Kelly Bartlett (KB), Gregory Bouquot (GB), Leslie Shor (LS), Ellen Tripp (ET), Shoshanna Armington (SA), Catherine Little (CL), Nathaniel Rickles (NR), Sarah Croucher (SCr), Susanna Cowan (SCo), Erin Ciarimboli, Karen Bresciano (KB), Jennifer Lease Butts (JLB), Mason Holland (MH), Larry Walsh (LW) Maureen Armstrong (MA), Elaine Lee (EL), Sherry Zane (SZ),

Minutes taken by: Erika Kareco (EK)

Absent: Lauren Schlesselman (LS)