

**SCHOLASTIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE**  
**November 1, 2021, 2:00-3:30PM**  
**Via WebEx**  
**Minutes**

**1. Today's Meeting Schedule**

**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 10-18-21 Minutes

a. Minutes Approved

C. Chair Reports

- ✓ SSC Chairs, in response to SEC request, has drafted a resolution related to the protocol for requested changes to class enrollment caps. Please see Attachment 1 which includes the Background and Resolution. SSC discussed possibility of voting on the resolution at the meeting.
  - There have been issues with class capacities changing in PeopleSoft and instructors not being notified of these changes.
  - Department Heads or Deans should determine enrollment capacity for classes.
  - Instructors must be notified of changes in their class capacity.
  - Committee discussion determined that the resolution as written could not be put forward until we get more information on when and how often this is happening (expected feedback from 11/12 meeting, will reconsider at Nov 15 SSC meeting).
- ✓ SSC Chairs, at the request of SEC, will attend a joint meeting with the chairs of Senate C&C and JEDI and SEC Chair to discuss a proposal by USG to require an Anti-Black Racism course for all undergraduate students.
  - USG wants to require an Anti-Black Racism course as an individual course, rather than a general education course.
  - This may not be the request to ask the SSC especially with the new changes to general education curriculum.
  - Went back to the SEC to see if they could form a subcommittee for this area.
- ✓ SSC forwarded a request from Joe Madaus (Academic Adjustment Committee, Chair) to review a proposal. This request was forwarded to the SEC, and if tasked by the SEC, SSC will review the proposal at an upcoming SSC meeting.

- Proposal is about making adjustments to the "Q" and language requirements for students with disabilities.
  - These students will meet the requirements, but in different ways compared to the traditional ways.
- ✓ The Minimum Exceptions By-Law change will be submitted to the Senate meeting later today, November 1, and voted on at the December Senate meeting.
- Expand input to include enrollment and planning.
  - Includes undergraduate admission office, office registrar
  - Expand the input to include faculty and other input into these decisions.
  - Only presenting it today at Senate, not voting on it.

### 3. Today's Check-in

#### A. *SSC Representatives on University Academic Integrity Initiative*

**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.

**Report: See PPT for discussion**

- The charge was to review and revise standards for academic strategies and approaches.
- Looking into our peers to see how they address academic misconduct.
- We have discussed who will be affected by this, and what is considered academic misconduct.
- International Center for Academic Integrity → Used this definition for academic integrity.
  - What aspects should this policy touch?
- We want to create a single website where we will include our mission statement and include links to send people to different places.
  - The types of violations for staff members and students will be different in terms of procedures.
- We need to find ways to apply it to different settings such as studying abroad and clinicals.
- Proposed definition feedback:
  - If a student tries to withdraw from a class because if they are under investigation, then it is not allowed. However, we do not have anything written about if a student commits academic misconduct and then drops the class.
    - The committee is currently working to address this.
- How can we create a culture where this is supported and followed?

#### B. *Subcommittee: Fresh Start/Academic Renewal*

**CHAIR:** LC

**MEMBERS:** EC., LW, NR, TL, SA

**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: See Attachment 2**

- We began on principles of access and incentivizing people to finish their degrees.
- We are looking to limit barriers that cause people not to finish it.
- Goal: Not to make it overly difficult for the students to come back, especially for students who did not have the best GPA.
- Peer universities either require students to completely wipe all the courses they took, or require them to leave their grades as low grades.
- For our plan:
  - Want students to apply thru ACES, and have meetings with ACES advisor and department to negotiate which courses you want to retake or keep.
- ACES is currently on board with this plan.
- The number of students that come back four years later is around 17 a year. (This includes students who do not end up giving a deposit).
- Currently, we are trying to determine the maximum number of credits students are allowed to have.
- Currently trying to think through the question, what is the difference between students who are trying to get readmission, and who is trying to get readmission with credits.
- Has the committee looked at readmission from a data stance? → Yes, we currently are. Since all the candidates may not be able to meet the particular credit requirement, and not necessarily be considered a fresh start.

C. *Dismissal/Probation for International Students.*

**CHAIR:** EC

How do we manage the scholastic standings for international students who have not taken courses on the UConn campus.

**Report:**

- No update

D. *Subcommittee: Military Transfer Credit*

**CHAIR:** LW

**MEMBERS:** Alyssa Kelleher (Director of the Veteran Military Program and Services), 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 update

E. *Subcommittee: “No Attendance” Status for Financial Aid*

**CHAIR:** GB

**MEMBERS:** Carrie Fernandes (Program Manager in Financial Aid), HF, LSH, 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:**

- Trying to draft things for the subcommittee, but not yet ready to bring it up yet.
- Researched peers and aspirants.
- We are going to need more ways for people to document student engagement.

F. *Subcommittee: Sick Notes*

**CHAIR:** MA

**MEMBERS:** CW, LSC, RC

**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 expectation of a similar requirement for other assessment rescheduling is not without precedent.

**Report:** Sending out survey to stakeholders but unlikely to have data for Nov 15 meeting.

**5. New Business**

**6. Adjourn Meeting**

- Meeting adjourned at 3:33 PM.

**SSC Committee Members:** Robin Coulter (RC), Holly Fitch (HF), Maureen Armstrong (MA), Karen Bresciano (KBR), Mason Holland (MH), Elaine Lee (EL), Thomas Long (TL), Joe Madaus (JM), Leslie Shor (LSH), Sherry Zane (SZ), Shoshanna Armington (SA), Kelly Bartlett (KBA), Gregory Bouquot (GB), Erin Ciarimboli (EC), Joseph Crivello (JC), Sarah Croucher (SCR), Lindsay Cummings (LC), Abbey Engler (AE), Jennifer Lease Butts (JLB), George Michna (GM), Daniel Pfeiffer (DF), Nathaniel Rickles (NR), Lauren Schlesselman (LSC), Ellen Tripp (ET), Larry Walsh (LW), Christine Wenzel (CW).

**Minutes taken by:** Erica Kareco (EK)

**Absent:** Elaine Lee (EL), Lesile Shor (LSH), Jennifer Lease Butts (JLB), George Michna (GM), Larry Walsh (LW)

## ATTACHMENT 1

***Proposed Resolution - DRAFT  
from Senate Faculty Standards Committee  
on Class Capacity/Enrollment Caps  
November 1, 2021***

*Whereas*, During Academic year 2021, the SEC received many reports of administrative changes to course caps without consultation with affected faculty nor their Department Head. Based on these reports the SEC deemed it appropriate for the SSC to draft a resolution for the Senate to act upon that reasserts an appropriate chain of governance in this matter.

*Resolved*, That the Senate strongly urges that the University administration understand that course registration designations for Class Capacity (aka “enrollment caps”) shall be determined by Department Heads, instructors, and (where appropriate), the Dean of the College/School (or Dean’s Designee). This chain of governance will ensure proper pedagogy, facilitate student course requirements and timely graduation, address varying student interest in courses, recognize fluctuating instructor and teaching assistant availability (e.g., instructor vacancies, faculty sabbaticals, limited teaching assistant lines), accommodate delivery modalities (i.e., in person, online, distance learning, hybrid), and consider classroom availability restrictions (e.g., seat capacity and technology access). University administration may submit class cap revisions to the appropriate Department Head for review by the Department Head, instructor, and (where appropriate), the Dean of the College/School (or Dean’s Designee).

## ATTACHMENT 2

### UConn Academic Renewal: Policy Draft 2

Oct. 25, 2021

Committee Members: Lindsay Cummings (Chair), Shoshana Armington, Erin Ciarimboli, Thomas Long, Nathaniel Rickles, Carl Rivers.

*Items marked in yellow are still current points of discussion.*

Students who have been away from the university for at least **four years** may choose to apply for Academic Renewal at the time of their application for Readmission. Under Academic Renewal, **up to X # of** credits receiving a grade of C- or lower from courses previously completed at the University of Connecticut will be removed from the calculation of the student's cumulative GPA. Students will not receive credit toward their degree for these courses. These courses will remain on the transcript.

#### Rationale:

The purpose of this policy is to provide support and incentive for students to return to UConn to complete their degrees. Students separate from the university for a wide range of reasons, and may be returning under markedly different circumstances from when they left. An Academic Renewal policy reflects the understanding that the academic record students left with represents a different phase in their college career. Such policies allow students to more clearly represent their academic work at the point and time they are completing their degree. This can provide motivation, incentive, and access for those students hoping to complete their degree, and possibly pursue further education.

#### Further details:

- Students approved for Academic Renewal will reenroll, initially, in ACES. Students will be given a semester to choose which credits to apply to Academic Renewal. This will be done in consultation with the ACES advisor and with the students' new College or Department. Credit decisions will be made only once a student has been accepted to a new degree program.
- Individual schools and colleges may place limitations on how a student may apply Academic Renewal.
- All standing university policies apply, including the "eight-year rule," which states that students wishing to apply toward a degree the credits earned more than eight years before graduation must have permission from the dean of the school or college concerned. The permission, if granted, applies only to the current school or college.
- Academic Renewal can be used only once and is limited to those completing their first Bachelor's degree.
- Students utilizing Academic Renewal are held to the same rules for academic probation and dismissal as all other University students.
- Students who were subject to dismissal may be considered for the Academic Renewal program.
- Non-degree courses cannot be applied to this program.
- Billing and financial aid will not be recalculated or refunding due to the election of the course forgiveness.
- Once graduated all courses remain on the transcript [**and impact the GPA - what does this mean?**].-

## UConn Academic Renewal: Talking Points

DRAFT 10/25/2021

Items marked in **yellow** are points of current discussion and investigation.

### **Why is a policy like this important?**

Some students wishing to return and complete their degree after multiple years away from UConn face a poor academic record that may reflect A) life circumstances that adversely affected their academic performance, and which no longer apply, or B) poor performance in a major for which the student was not well suited. This policy is designed to provide incentive, access, and motivation to such students to pursue degree completion.

### **Who else has such a policy?**

Many of our peer and aspirant institutions have such a policy, including, but not limited to: Indiana University, Purdue University, University of Delaware, University of Georgia, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, and University of Maryland.

### **How did you arrive at the timeframe of 4 years' separation?**

The timeframe of 4 years was selected to align with University's policy after a 2<sup>nd</sup> dismissal. In both cases, the timeframe is designed to ensure that students have had the time to address the multiple issues impacting their poor academic performance. Aligning the policies allows for fair and equitable treatment of students wishing to return after facing significant academic difficulties.

### **Why allow students to choose which credits to count?**

Some schools' Academic Renewal policies require students to start fresh, with a clean GPA, but also with no credits toward graduation. This may disincentivize, rather than incentivize, the completion of degree. Furthermore, allowing students to choose allows them the flexibility to retain credit for a course in which they received a low grade, but have no reason to take again. The overarching goals of the policy is to increase access for students wishing to complete their degree. Permitting students to choose the credits they wish to apply, **up to the point of XX credits**, allows greater access and likelihood of graduation in a reasonable amount of time.

### **How many students do we think will utilize this program?**

We anticipate that the annual figures will be low. At this time, UConn receives approximately 17 application for readmission annually from students separated four years or more. Some of these students are not readmitted, and some are readmitted but do not reenroll. Furthermore, **not all students applying for readmission would apply for the program, and not all who apply will be approved.**

### **Why readmit students through ACES?**

Readmission through ACES provides the best opportunity for advising students in their reentry process. This includes, but is not limited to, helping students readjust to college life, assisting them with enrollment in competitive degree programs, and assisting in the selection of credits to apply toward Academic Renewal. ACES has extensive experience with this type of advising.

**When/how soon would Academic Renewal students need to make decisions about which courses/credits to apply the policy to?**

We propose that this process be completed within the first semester of readmission. This would allow students to have ample time to consult with their ACES advisor and advisor in their proposed school/college, as well as the Office of Student Financial Aid Services, in order to understand any school/college/financial aid policies applicable to readmitted students and make informed decisions about coursework and application of the academic renewal policy.

**Acceptance to Competitive Degree Programs**

Acceptance to the Academic Renewal program is not an indication of a students' likelihood of being accepted back into competitive degree programs.

**Will residency be required?**

No. If students are able complete their degree through online courses, they may do so, although this scenario is considered unlikely for most students utilizing the program.