

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee

Minutes 1/23/2024

Co-Chairs: Karen Bresciano, Jamie Kleinman

A. Welcome and Introductions

- ***Karen Bresciano, Co-Chair**, The Graduate School
- ***Jamie Kleinman, Co-Chair**, CLAS, Psychological Sciences, Avery Point
- *Maureen Armstrong, Dean of Students Office
- *Kelly Burke, Engineering, Chem & Biomolecular (**absent**)
- *Robin Coulter, Business, Marketing
- *Carrie Fernandes, Financial Aid
- *Holly Fitch, CLAS, Psychological Sciences (**absent**)
- * Gavin Kuebler, USG
- *Morty Ortega, CAHNR, Natural Resources and the Environment
- *Sharyn Rusch, CLAS, Advising Center, Biological Sciences
- *Lawrence Walsh, Office of Admissions
- Erin Ciarimboli, Office of Undergraduate Advising
- Sarah Croucher, Provost's Office, Academic Affairs
- Lindsay Cummings, SFA, Dramatic Arts (**absent**)
- Jennifer Lease Butts, Honors and Enrichment Program (Ex-Officio Member) (**absent**)
- Brian Rockwood, Registrar's Office
- Lauren Schlesselman, CETL, Academic Program Assessment and Learning Initiatives
- Christine Wenzel, Center for Students with Disabilities

Liz Polanco

Kelly Gilbert

B. Approval of Minutes 11/14/2023

- a. Minutes approved unanimously

C. Announcements

- a. None

D. Updates

- a. Drop/Add: Karen Bresciano gave an overview of what was done by this subgroup last semester. A guidelines document draft has been put together and the group reviewed the draft; comments and notes are in this draft. The subcommittee will meet to discuss questions and feedback on the draft at a later date.
 - i. Subcommittee members to meet: Robin Coulter, Morty Ortega, Maureen Armstrong, Sarah Croucher, Karen Bresciano
- b. CSD (Center for Students with Disabilities): Karen Bresciano reported that the SEC is working to put together a motion for a university-wide CSD Accommodations Taskforce. Christine Wenzel shared that a few training sessions will be run this semester for faculty – “come get the tea about CSD” series – to support dialogue around CSD

accommodations questions and concerns. The office will also be hosting office hours and offering ways to connect faculty with each other to better serve these issues. Access & Accommodations Group

E. New Business

a. Scholastic Standing review and potential bylaw changes:

- i. 24 credit rule and Academic Standing: Jamie Kleinman summarized the issue and discussion ensued. Students who have a GPA between 1.8 and 2.0 and are taking fewer than 24 credits are considered in good academic standing but are struggling to progress. Kelly Gilbert shared that students do receive a letter of warning when they are in this GPA range. Anyone below 1.8 during their first two semesters is on academic probation.
- ii. Additional potential changes (naming, warning status, required time away from UConn): Erin Ciarimboli summarized the issues surrounding the different stages of Academic Probation and the need to investigate potential changes to this process to be more effective in supporting students who are struggling. She shared that a comprehensive report on these concerns was also shared with the Provost's Office and many significant conversations with campus partners have taken place. The floor was opened to discussion. Jamie Kleinman proposed that at some point Erin Ciarimboli lead a subcommittee to draft a bundle of bylaw changes to affect change on this issue; any draft bylaw change presented to be discussed in this group before moving forward. Christine Wenzel, Carrie Fernandes, Jamie Kleinman raised their hands to focus on this issue.
 1. Bylaws, for reference: <https://scholasticstanding.uconn.edu/warning-probation-and-dismissal/>
 2. Scholastic Standards FAQ for reference: [Scholastic Standing FAQs | Scholastic Standing \(uconn.edu\)](#)
 3. Academic Regulations related to Scholastic Standards in the Catalog for reference: [Scholastic Standards | Undergraduate Catalog \(uconn.edu\)](#)

Scholastic Standing Data Fall 2019-Fall 2023

Academic Standing	Fall Semesters					Spring Semesters				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Warning	156	130	140	153	173	73	21	38	52	55
Probation	1595	1622	1851	1646	1462	1194	429	1118	1282	1160
Subject to Dismissal (SDSM)	340	184	388	414	336	509	213	515	682	598
SDSM Retained <i>(Successful Appeal)</i>	134	78	190	200	171	183	77	206	293	237
SDSM Dismissed	206	106	198	214	165	329	136	309	389	361
<i>Unsuccessful Appeal</i>	111	32	110	105	86	143	27	88	174	195
<i>Did Not Appeal</i>	95	74	88	109	79	183	109	221	215	166
Total Students/Cases	2091	1936	2379	2213	1971	1776	663	1671	2016	1813

Data shared by Erin Ciarimboli in the meeting chat

- b. Denial of Space for Non-attendance rule: Jamie Kleinman opened the floor to Brian Rockwood to report on this issue. Brian Rockwood summarized the issue – there is a policy that if a student is not in attendance, they can be dropped from a class administratively in the first ten days of a class (it is a drop and not a withdrawal, removed by the registrar and does not require the consent of the student). He added that this is extremely rare. Sharyn Rusch shared that she receives several requests from faculty in this area, even if it does not get to the level of the Registrar, particularly for lab classes. She raised concerns about the lack of clarity on this in the Course Catalog where the language does not go in accordance with the bylaw. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the language is confusing and a change is needed.
- c. Bylaw in question:
 - i. *Denial of Space for Non-Attendance: A student who is enrolled in, but does not attend any classes or laboratory meetings during the first ten days of classes may be denied a place in the course. Such non-attendance, or non-attendance later in the semester, does not constitute withdrawal; the student must officially drop the course by regular procedures or risk being assigned a failing grade.*