

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee

Minutes 10/14/2024

MS Teams

Co-Chairs: Karen Bresciano, Jamie Kleinman

*Karen Bresciano, Co-Chair, The Graduate School (*absent*)
*Jamie Kleinman, Co-Chair, CLAS (Avery Point)
*Dorothea Anagnostopoulos, Neag School of Education
*Maureen Armstrong, Dean of Students Office
*Kelly Burke, Engineering
*David Embrick, CLAS (Hartford)
*Holly Fitch, CLAS, Psychological Sciences
*Kristen Govoni, CAHNR
*Morty Ortega, CAHNR (*absent*)
*Jennifer Terni, CLAS
*Lawrence Walsh, Office of Admissions
Erin Ciarimboli, Office of Undergraduate Advising (*absent*)
Robin Coulter, School of Business
Sarah Croucher, Provost's Office, Academic Affairs (Ex-Officio Member)
Jennifer Lease Butts, Honors and Enrichment Program
Brian Rockwood, Registrar's Office
Lauren Schlesselman, CETL, Academic Program Assessment and Learning Initiatives
Christine Wenzel, Center for Students with Disabilities (*absent*)

- A. Approval of Minutes [October 1, 2024](#): minutes approved unanimously
- B. Announcements
 - a. [Block Transfer Proposal](#): awaiting CCC+ updates/discussion: Jamie Kleinman summarized that this proposal has had extensive discussion in CCC+ and invited Sarah Croucher to the floor to give an update on those points. Concerns were raised over having appropriate resources to support these students and this proposal. Other questions regarding the minimum requirement of 40 credits for the Common Curriculum to adhere to NECHE accreditation standards related to this topic were also raised.
 - b. AI Syllabus language and best practices/guidelines: Jamie Kleinman introduced the topic and asked the committee what, within the purview of this committee, can be done on the topic of AI, suggesting some syllabus recommendations or policy around the use of AI in specific classes. Jennifer Terni shared that she thinks this conversation is bigger than this committee and there is merit for a university-wide policy on the use of AI to guide faculty before considering syllabi recommendations. Holly Fitch added that the Academic Integrity working group, which included a diverse population of faculty and staff, would be a good footprint for recreating a similar committee focused on AI. Additional resources were shared via the chat ([CETL](#) and [library](#)). Jamie Kleinman thanked the committee for their feedback and will share the committee's concerns with the SEC at the next meeting (10/25/2024).
- C. Updates

Commented [BK1]: Terni? LB?

Commented [EM2R1]: Terni! Thanks for catching.

- a. Summer/Winter Senate Bylaw Change Proposal: Jamie Kleinman shared that the subcommittee met last week to discuss issues related to this, and more information will be forthcoming at a future meeting. Robin Coulter shared concerns about a recent experience with the approval of a new Winter program she is running had to be approved by her Dean, expressing concerns about this task being a valuable use of their time.
- b. Lab Transfer Credit (hybrid labs): Discussion on this topic was tabled until the next meeting.
- c. Senate By-Laws related to Readmission (Article II, B, 12) to update the language as the university is no longer looking at criminal history (but does look at conduct/discipline). The wording needs to be updated to reflect this policy ([Conduct History Review Committee Policy](#)): Maureen Armstrong brought this to our attention: Maureen Armstrong asked if we were supposed to invite the Title IX Coordinator to present to this committee on this topic and she added that she has also approached Nicole Gelston. Discussion ensued and Maureen Armstrong shared that in 2013, the policy was changed in response to a CT state statute. Discussion continued and concerns were raised regarding the lack of reviewing criminal history in the readmission process. Jamie Kleinman thanked everyone for their contribution and asked for clarification regarding the committee's purview over these considerations. Robin Coulter asked for additional information regarding conduct vs criminal history and how this is looked at at the university level so the committee can better understand the nuances of this potential bylaw change. Jamie Kleinman agreed to raise these questions to the SEC at the next meeting with Committee Chairs (10/25/2024).
 - i. Senate history attached
 - ii. CT Statute:

(b) Within the limits of authorized expenditures, the policies of the state system of higher education shall be consistent with (1) the following goals: (A) To ensure that no qualified person be denied the opportunity for higher education on the basis of age, sex, gender identity or expression, ethnic background or social, physical or economic condition, or assessed **criminal** history record information, as defined in section 16a-85a, (B) to protect academic freedom, (C) to provide opportunities for education and training related to the economic, cultural and educational development of the state, (D) to assure the fullest possible use of available resources in public and private institutions of higher education, (E) to maintain standards of quality ensuring a position of national leadership for state institutions of higher education, (F) to apply the resources of higher education to the problems of society, and (G) to foster flexibility in the policies and institutions of higher education to enable the system to respond to changes in the economy, society, technology and student interests, and (2) the goals for higher education in the state identified in section 138a-13a. Said board shall review recent studies of the need for higher education services, with special attention to those completed pursuant to legislative action, and to assess such needs shall initiate additional programs or services through one or more of the constituent units.

iii. Non-Degree application form:

* Have you ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at any educational institution you have attended from the 9th grade (or the international equivalent) forward, whether related to academic misconduct or behavioral misconduct, that resulted in a disciplinary action? These actions could include, but are not limited to: probation, suspension, removal, dismissal, or expulsion from the institution due to misconduct. Please note that this does not include academic probation or academic dismissal for not meeting scholastic standards.

Yes No

D. New Business

- a. Robin Coulter raised concerns about who is paying attention to the Senate By-Laws and ensuring that changes to the by-laws that require updates in other areas is being adhered to, using the example of the changes approved last Spring which changed the SET from “Student Evaluation of Teaching” to “Student Experience of Teaching.” She advised suggesting to the SEC that there be some sort of mandate at least to articulate what the Senate by-laws are and to understand the importance of paying attention to Senate actions to ensure updates are made accordingly. Jamie Kleinman thanked Robin Coulter for this, and said they will raise it at the next SEC w/ Committee Chairs meeting (10/25/2024).

