

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee

Minutes 12/3/2024

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

- A. Approval of Minutes: [November 19, 2024](#) : minutes approved unanimously
- B. Announcements
 - a. Summer/Winter By-Law Change Proposal Presented to Senate 12/2/24; will come back for a vote at the February Senate meeting
- C. Old Business
 - a. Lab Transfer Credit (hybrid labs): tabled to a future meeting
 - b. 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: Jamie Kleinman reintroduced this topic, and summarized discussion which took place on this item at a recent SEC w/ Chairs meeting. The suggestion in SEC was to remove this sentence, "Criteria used in determining readmission include, but are not limited to, academic progress, university discipline history, and criminal history."
- D. New Business
 - a. Pass/Fail Policy Review:
 - i. (email from Erin Ciarimboli): Our office received a question from a faculty member regarding the policy/bylaw that restricts students on probation from accessing pass/fail (p. 27; E. Scholastic Standing, 3b, Pass-Fail Option, included below). As I recall, this has been discussed at least twice

in recent years in SSC and we had decided not to propose a change to this because of the possibility that a student on probation could use a “pass” grade to disguise academic struggles, raise their GPA, and not be “flagged” (via their academic status) for needing extra support and access to resources in subsequent semesters.

1. Erin Ciarimboli shared the history of this issue coming to light with an individual student, and asked the committee for any history or insight on this issue. Holly Fitch shared that these policies were most recently changed during COVID-19, with the intention of giving students additional flexibility and also structure.
- b. Kelly Burke asked a question regarding timing of incomplete/make-up grading and any potential impacts on students moving forward if they have not appropriately passed a prerequisite course. Brian Rockwood shared that pre-requisite checks should be done before day one of the next semester to avoid any student moving forward with the next course if they did not pass the prerequisite. Discussion closed on the thought that perhaps this committee could take up reviewing the Incomplete policy. Robin Coulter also suggested reviewing the attendance policy, expressing concerns about students not attending classes, and that correlation with poor student performance. Sarah Croucher added additional details regarding academic engagement, vs attendance, stating that professors can build assignments or activities into their course that require in-person attendance. They added that professors can take attendance, they just cannot use them toward their grading. Discussion continued and overall concerns regarding the culture of attendance at the university is an issue impacting many facets of our community.

Tabled until Future Meeting:

- a. [Block Transfer Proposal](#): awaiting CCC+ updates/discussion: this was part of the CCC+ Omnibus proposal presented at the Senate Meeting on December 2, 2024.
- b. Bunched Finals Discussion