

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee

Minutes 2/4/2025

MS Teams

Co-Chairs: Karen Bresciano, Jamie Kleinman

*Karen Bresciano, Co-Chair, The Graduate School

*Jamie Kleinman, Co-Chair, CLAS (Avery Point)

*Dorothea Anagnostopoulos, Neag School of Education

*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

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: January 21, 2025: minutes passed with one abstention

B. Announcements

a. Summer/Winter By-Law Change Proposal vote at the February Senate meeting (results): passed!

b. Block Transfer proposal included in the CCC+ Proposal Presented to Senate, vote at the February Senate meeting (results): passed!

Acknowledgement of gratitude issued to this committee for the work they put into the proposals. Discussion ensued around communications on these updates and concerns that current by-laws do not appear on top when using search engines. Michelle Everard will work with staff in the Provost's Office to see if special announcements can be made regarding by-law changes. Current practice is to post a news post on the Senate website and include an announcement in the Provost's Office newsletter.

It was suggested that the Scholastic Standards Committee put together a subcommittee to review the list of approved transfer-oriented programs. Discussion ensued on processes and Karen Bresciano asked Larry Walsh to present to the group on what needs exist from his office's perspective. Larry Walsh will return to the next committee meeting with a proposal for review to answer this question.

C. Old Business

- a. Lab Transfer Credit (hybrid labs) tabled to a future meeting (not the next 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 shared that the readmission language will likely be presented at the March Senate meeting.

D. New Business

- a. AI Discussion

Jamie Kleinman shared that she and Karen Bresciano met with Gladis Kersaint to discuss concerns raised in this committee regarding the intersection of Academic Integrity/Artificial Intelligence and the fact that the Office of Academic Integrity has not yet been established, as per the by-law change previously passed by the Senate. It was proposed that Provost D'Alleva be invited to come to a future Scholastic Standards Committee meeting to hear directly from members of this committee. Discussion ensued and Jamie Kleinman summarized the concerns and how to communicate this moving forward as (1) implementation review (2) framing the concerns and arguments in a strategic way (3) focus on tangible outcomes from this planned conversation. Discussion on this will continue at the next meeting.

- b. Class cancelation by-law language

- i. Senate By-Laws E.9.Class Attendance (page 32)

In the event that the University is closed due to inclement weather or other emergency on a regularly scheduled class day, instructors are expected to make reasonable attempts to complete all stated course learning objectives by the last day of classes. Approaches that an instructor may use to ensure the completion of all stated course learning objectives include, but are not limited to:

- a. Scheduling class make up on the "Emergency Closing Make Up Date(s)" designated by the Registrar's Office in the University Calendar.
- b. Scheduling class make up at other times
- c. Extending class times
- d. Using educational technology and other not in-person alternatives.

In all situations in which stated course objectives would be completed outside of the regularly scheduled class time, it is essential that instructors should be sensitive to students' inability to attend these alternative class times due to unavoidable conflicts such as, but not limited to, religious observances and other previously scheduled University obligations. Reasonable accommodation should be offered to students with such conflicts.

Academic operations:

- **NEW for 2024-25:** If the University has announced a delay or cancellation of classes, the delay or cancellation pertains only to in-person classes. In the case of online or hybrid modality classes, instructors may choose whether to hold the class as scheduled or cancel. In cases where instructors choose to hold the class, the following conditions must be met:
 - The class is provided in an online format.
 - The class is recorded in a manner that allows students to view it later.
 - Students are given at least 72 hours (starting from when classes are once again held) to view the missed class before any materials from that class are used again in the course.
 - Students are not penalized for not being present synchronously.
- If the University has not announced a delay or cancellation of classes, faculty are expected to hold their classes as scheduled in the modality originally advertised.
- In circumstances when a faculty member determines that they cannot travel safely to campus, the faculty member must notify all students in the class in a timely manner along with their dean and department head.
- Faculty must not preemptively cancel class before the University decides and announces whether UConn's normal schedule will be changed.
- Students should contact their professors as soon as possible if they must miss a class or other activity due to weather conditions.
- Faculty should respect the decisions of commuting students who decide not to travel to campus or to leave class early to get home safely and should provide options for them to make up missed work.

Jamie Kleinman introduced this topic and summarized that the language current by-law language and winter weather guidance contradict each other, particularly regarding what instructors can require of students when a class is affected by weather. Discussion ensued and many concerns were raised regarding the potential for students to be penalized if they miss an online synchronous course during a university closure, as well the need to prioritize ensuring that university policy reflects all potential reasons for closure and not just the most common (i.e. weather related). An idea was raised on focusing on what you can't do, rather than what you can do to give better parameters - You can't hold required synchronous assessments thereby penalizing students who are unable to make a session, and you also can't withhold information that you would have potentially shared during that time. Yes, you can host a session and record it, but you can't exclude anyone in the class from accessing that recording. It was discussed that a resolution to amend the by-laws should be drafted based on feedback from this conversation and brought back to this committee at the next meeting. Sarah Croucher and Robin Coulter volunteered to work on a draft and share it at a future meeting.

New Business:

- Voting on Honors Board: Jennifer Lease Butts shared that since last month's vote approving members of the Honors Board, some changes have been made that need to be reviewed again. Jennifer Lease Butts shared that Amy Egbert, CLAS, Assistant Professor in Psychological Sciences, has been added to the list of Honors Board members, and that Judy Brown had been removed due to retirement. The committee reviewed the full updated roster and XXX.

Tabled until Future Meeting:

- a. Bunched Finals Discussion