



ABR Update & Amended Resolutions

Presented by SEC Chair, Bob Day

Motion as Amended:

Pause Implementation of the ABR By-Law Change passed on May 1, 2023 subject to the formation of an implementation-and-study committee as defined in 10/6/25 meeting materials.

Summary:

- **History**
 - SEC summary presented by Senator Michael Morrell
- **SEC proposed two-part motion at the October 6, 2025 Senate Meeting**
 - **Motion to rescind May 1, 2023 by-law revision**
 - not in compliance with original fall 2024 or amended fall 2025 launch
 - the motion including requirement as part of General Education shifted the nature of the course and resources required
 - changing budget needs and new federal guidelines require reconsideration
 - give the taskforce a blank slate to optimize scope, resources, and time-line
 - recommended action is made by task force deliberation, not on the Senate floor
 - **Motion to establish a taskforce to determine a path forward**
 - review of new considerations should be appropriately deliberated upon in a representative group to support the spirit of the original motion.
Recommendations will be voted on by the Senate.

History of Anti-Black Racism Course

- **Fall 2020:** Anti-Black Racism Pop-Up Course first taught (UNIV 1985/3895; later changed to UNIV 3088)
- **March 2022:** Anti-Black Racism Working Group Established by the Senate Executive Committee (SEC)
- **May 2, 2022:** Anti-Black Racism Working Group Report recommended to the SEC that the University require all students to take the "UNIV 1xxx: US Anti-Black Racism" course.
- **September 2, 2022:** SEC formed an ABR Ad-Hoc Committee charged with preparing a proposal and implementation plan to include a mandatory Anti-Black Racism Course in the UConn Curriculum.

History of Anti-Black Racism Course

- **March 6, 2023:** Anti-Black Racism Course Working Group presented to the Senate
 - No formal motion for a bylaw change, but a suggested bylaw
 - Presentation of cost structure
 - Oversight explanation as not including as part of Gen Ed/CC

Proposed By-Law Change

“Every undergraduate student at UConn
must pass the 1 credit

UNIV 3088: Special Topics: U.S. Anti-Black Racism
as part of the baccalaureate degree requirements. It is
strongly recommended that the course be completed
during the first two years of enrollment at the University.”

II. Rules and Regulations, C. Minimum Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees, insert between #2 General Education Curriculum and #3 Conferral of Degrees.

COST STRUCTURE

Cost and Financial Aid

- **1 credit at cost structure**
- Course to be offered during the first 7 weeks of fall & spring semesters.
- Full-time status results at zero cost for students enrolled in 12+ credits (92% of our students).
- Course to be offered during summer 1 credit, 0 cost for all interested students including part-time students..

Cost to Run

- Estimate is at ~ \$50k annually funded by Provost's office
- One-credit adjunct rate for faculty lead
- Graduate student who will manage administrative tasks (email correspondence and discussion board moderation)

COURSE OVERSIGHT

CCC+ vs. UICC

- WHY UICC?
 - Historical pop-up course passage
 - This is an interdisciplinary course that draws on faculty throughout the university
- WHY NOT CCC+ NOW?
 - This is not a gen ed course
 - Longer approval process that inhibits flexibility

Still up for discussion

We are aware that there have been concerns regarding accreditation and will be addressing them.

UConn

History of Anti-Black Racism Course

- **March 6, 2023:** Anti-Black Racism Course Working Group presented to the Senate
 - No formal motion for a bylaw change, but a suggested bylaw
 - Presentation of cost structure
 - Oversight explanation as not including as part of Gen Ed/CC
- **April 3, 2023:** ABR Implementation Ad Hoc Committee presented to the Senate
 - Formal motion for a bylaw change
 - Oversight explanation as including as part of Gen Ed/CC
 - No formal presentation of cost structure or start date; minutes indicate that the Senate discussed these issues [Note: During discussion of this point in the Senate, Senator Jockusch pointed out that the Committee did present a cost structure estimate at the meeting of \$57,307.35 of new budget needs and \$40,502.67 that CETL would cover, for a total of \$97,810.02. These slides were included in the Agenda for, and presented at, the 4/3/2023 meeting but were missing from the minutes. See: [2023 0403 Senate Agenda complete.pdf](#)]

Proposed By-Law Change

“Every undergraduate student at UConn must pass the one-credit course titled U.S. Anti-Black Racism as part of the baccalaureate degree requirements. It is strongly recommended that the course be completed during the first two years of enrollment at the University.”

II. Rules and Regulations, C. Minimum Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees, #2 General Education Curriculum between
c.Environmental Literacy, d. Courses

COURSE OVERSIGHT

CCC+ vs. UICC

WHY CCC+?

- Although the approval process could be longer, the CCC+ committee is open to creating an ABR subcommittee to promote flexibility
- CCC+ meets more often and is better able to provide consistent oversight

WHY NOT UICC?

- Accreditation standards require that ABR be a gen ed course, UICC does not oversee gen ed courses.

History of Anti-Black Racism Course

- **March 6, 2023:** Anti-Black Racism Course Working Group presented to the Senate
 - No formal motion for a bylaw change, but a suggested bylaw
 - Presentation of cost structure
 - Oversight explanation as not including as part of Gen Ed/CC
- **April 3, 2023:** ABR Implementation Ad Hoc Committee presented to the Senate
 - Formal motion for a bylaw change
 - Oversight explanation as including as part of Gen Ed/CC
 - No formal presentation of cost structure or start date, although minutes indicate that the Senate discussed these issues [\[see note on slide 14\]](#)
- **May 1, 2023:** Anti-Black Racism Course Working Group presented to Senate
 - Senate discussed the proposed bylaw change for the second time
 - Motion passed 36 YAY, 25 NAY, and 4 ABSTENTIONS.

History of Anti-Black Racism Course

- **August-November 2023:** Senate Administrator Position Vacant – limited Senate operations
- **November 2023 – April 2024:** SEC Chair Laura Burton & Senate Administrator Michelle Everard met with stakeholders to determine the next steps
- **April 2024:** SEC established the Anti-Black Racism Course Implementation Working Group Ad Hoc Committee with the charge:
 - Determine a subject area (recommended UNIV), course number (recommended 1000 or 2000 level), and catalog description for the course. Submit a CAR for the course by October 1, 2024, for a Fall 2025 implementation.
 - Determine whether a substitute is appropriate if a student has taken a 3-credit course in Anti-Black Racism that has the same learning objective (proposal by Senator Jockusch on the Senate floor)
 - **May 2 & 14, 2024:** Committee met and had a meeting scheduled for early Fall 2024; ultimately canceled awaiting further information on funding and academic home

History of Anti-Black Racism Course

- **November 2024:** CLAS Dean's Office, after receiving a request from the Provost's Office, recommended Africana Studies as the academic home for the ABR course to the SEC. The decision to include the course as part of the Common Curriculum (CC) and house it in Africana Studies had several implications for the course.
 - Course needed to be fourteen rather than seven weeks
 - Would require "regular and substantive interaction" to meet accreditation expectations
 - Would have to be a graded course as part of the CC, requiring "a different pedagogical structure" that included significant faculty feedback
 - Staffing and resources plan initially presented in the Senate (one faculty member, one graduate student, and a cost of approximately \$50,000) would not be applicable
 - CETL would require at least six months to develop the online course
 - Course would need to be a "regular" course and not a UNIV or INTD course

[Note: During discussion of these points in the Senate, Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Sarah Croucher pointed out that need for the course to be 14 weeks and have "regular and substantive interaction" arose from Financial Aid regulations and other issues, not due to it being a part of CC or NECHE accreditation.]

History of Anti-Black Racism Course

- **January 2025:** SEC met with representatives of CLAS and Africana Studies to discuss their report
- **February 2025:** Africana Studies informed the SEC that it had formed a subcommittee to develop a course syllabus and began working with CETL with a goal of a Fall 2026 offering.
- **May 2025:** Africana Studies was ready to develop the course over the summer months, but the SEC was unable to get clarity on the budget and staffing plan for the ABR course from Africana Studies, CLAS or the Provost's Office
- **August 29, 2025:** SEC receives information from General Counsel
- **October 6, 2025:** SEC brings a motion to rescind the original motion passed on May 1, 2023, and to establish a taskforce to determine a path forward for the ABR course

Motion as Amended:

Pause Implementation of the ABR By-Law Change passed on May 1, 2023 subject to the formation of an implementation-and-study committee as defined in 10/6/25 meeting materials.

Taskforce Charge (1 of 2):

Work with constituents and stakeholders within the University community to evaluate and potentially propose a path forward for the Anti-Black Racism (ABR) course as part of the undergraduate curriculum, as an alternative to the May 2023 Senate Resolution. Options the taskforce may consider include the following, already discussed by the SEC and Standing Committee Chairs:

- Establish a requirement for all undergraduate students to complete a one-credit S/U course (similar to the May 2023 Senate resolution) but with a choice from a set of related courses, including perhaps others that originated as pop-up courses – for example, those that focus on anti-Asian racism, anti-Muslim racism, and anti-Semitism. If deemed appropriate, set parameters for such a requirement, and recommend guidelines for future courses to be developed for inclusion; or
- Establish a pathway for ABR and similar courses (for example, including those listed in the previous bullet) to be developed as Topic of Inquiry (TOI) courses. A one-credit course would not satisfy a three-credit TOI requirement, so a viable suite of options should be considered.

Taskforce Charge (2 of 2):

The Taskforce shall not be limited to these suggested options and may consider amendments or additional options. Per accreditation standards, courses for TOI credit must be delivered on a graded basis, which may require further development of the ABR or other courses, should the second option be pursued. If the first option is chosen, requiring one or more classes as S/U, the course(s) would not be part of the Common Curriculum. The Taskforce shall coordinate with the SEC and Provost's Office to ensure that the University administration is committed to providing appropriate resources to support the final proposal.

The Taskforce shall issue a report to the Senate Executive Committee by February 12, 2026, with specific recommendations that could be discussed in the March 2026 Senate meeting and voted on in the April 2026 Senate meeting.

History of Anti-Black Racism Course: Addendum

- The following information came to light subsequent to the 11/3/2025 Senate Meeting. We offer them here to increase transparency and accuracy. Please also see the notes on Slides 9, 12, and 14.
- **Course needs to be fourteen rather than seven weeks:**
 - Although it is technically possible to offer a course over 7 weeks, doing so creates challenges and risks for student scheduling; billing; and student's maintaining enough credits for financial aid, visa, and other purposes. This also can require significant manual processing, which implicates significant resources when dealing with hundreds or thousands of students. Thus, a 14-week course is the only feasible option.
- **Course Requires “regular and substantive interaction”:** this is a requirement for students to receive financial aid for an online course.
- **Course needs to be graded:** This is a requirement because the original motion included the ABR course as part of the Common Curriculum. Our bylaws state that all CC courses must be graded. We could choose to make an exception for the ABR course and allow it to count toward the CC as an S/U course.
- **Course would need to be a “regular” course and not a UNIV or INTD course:** this was a choice various people made so that the course would have a regular custodian and allow for easier review and updates of it
- **Africana Studies Institute (ASI) Proposal:**
 - The ASI developed and presented a proposal to the Dean of CLAS and Provost in June 2025.
 - There was a misunderstanding on whether they should have sent this proposal to the SEC as well. The SEC Chair, Bob Day, became aware of the proposal in August 2025.
 - The Administration was unwilling to commit the resources requested by ASI to develop and implement the course.
- This addendum was created by SEC Member and Senator Michael Morrell with input from many people.