

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee

Agenda 09/03/2024

MS Teams

Co-Chairs: Karen Bresciano, Jamie Kleinman

Welcome and Introductions

- *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 (*absent*)
- *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

- A. **Approval of Minutes 4/2/2024:**the meeting minutes were approved with two abstentions.
- B. **Announcements:** Karen Bresciano shared updates with the Committee that were discussed at last Friday's Senate Executive Committee meeting
 - a. Request to the Provost's Office for putting out a letter to faculty regarding flexibility on election day, as it will be a teaching day.
 - b. Block Transfer Proposal for SSC to review – Sarah Croucher and Larry Walsh summarized the proposal for the group; the file will be shared at a later date for review and discussion at future meetings.
 - c. Update to 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 the attention of the SEC and SSC has been asked to review.

- d. Bunched Finals Report Review: Karen Bresciano requested that Brian Rockwood or another representative from the Registrar's Office report back on this topic with an updated analysis

C. Updates

- a. Summer/Winter Senate Bylaw Change Proposal: Jamie Kleinman reintroduced this topic and summarized the work into potentially making Juneteenth a non-teaching day done by this committee last year. She said that ultimately, when trying to make Juneteenth a non-teaching day, it was discovered that essential language was missing from the Senate By-Laws regarding Summer/Winter programs at all, which exposed a greater issue. She summarized that in a relatively short window, the hope is that this committee will put forward a by-law change proposal. Resources and the draft by-law change were shared with the committee and discussion ensued. Discussion will continue at a future meeting, and a subcommittee will be established to dig deeper once a direction has been established by the larger group.
- b. Lab Transfer Credit (hybrid labs): Karen Bresciano summarized the proposal and opened the floor to Lawrence Walsh. He shared the history on this issue, since it has become more prevalent since the COVID-19 pandemic. He shared drafted language for a proposal to update the Transfer Credit Guidelines in the Senate Bylaws (Article II, A.5)
 - i. Proposed new language (clean copy): "Online courses in laboratory science will not transfer unless taught in a hybrid modality that includes synchronous in-person examinations and laboratory components"
 - ii. Edit Copy (added language in red): "online courses in laboratory science and foreign language, including those offered in a hybrid format, will not transfer unless taught in a hybrid modality that includes synchronous in-person examinations and laboratory components."
 - iii. Discussion ensued and concerns were raised regarding if all virtual labs should be rejected. Prestigious medical schools are accepting virtual labs and some schools are doing amazing work in this area. (Robin Coulter) and the synchronous in-person examinations requirement. Jennifer Terni shared the experience in LCL for approving transfer credit for the foreign language requirement and stated that it is possible to review courses in this way for quality. Karen Bresciano thanked everyone for their thoughts and discussion will continue at a future meeting.

- D. **New Business:** Karen Bresciano asked the group for any suggestions of topics for the group to review this upcoming academic year.

- a. Sarah Croucher: raised concerns about higher numbers of college closures and how this may impact UConn and transfers to specific academic programs, as this population of transfer students will be slightly different from a traditional transfer situation
- b. Kelly Burke: raised concerns regarding academic accommodations and where we may stand with this issue. Holly Fitch shared that the committee established to focus on this issue has not yet met. Christine Wenzel added that she recently presented to the Council of Deans on the increase in student academic accommodations and added that

numbers are up 15% from any previous years. She added that she is happy to present to this group if needed. Holly Fitch added that Blackboard Ultra (which is now required for all 1000-2000 level courses), is different in how you can enter and handle accommodations for students, which may present additional challenges in faculty handling accommodations requests.

- c. Jennifer Terni: Concerns raised regarding students not attending classes, and the work on faculty and graduate student instructors on how to manage and track participation, particularly around federal requirements for “academic engagement” related to financial aid eligibility.

The meeting was concluded due to time constraints and committee members were encouraged to send any additional topics not discussed today to the Co-Chairs to be added to a future agenda for discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.