

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee

Minutes 10/01/2024

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 (*absent*)

*Maureen Armstrong, Dean of Students Office

*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

- A. **Approval of Minutes September 17, 2024:** minutes approved unanimously

B. Announcements

C. Updates

- a. Summer/Winter Senate Bylaw Change Proposal: the subcommittee on this topic will meet on Thursday. Jamie Kleinman summarized the main priorities of this group while considering a proposed bylaw change: (1) flexibility over time (2) including a regular review process (3) inclusion of language that will provide exemptions for the programs that operate outside of standard summer/winter programming. Jamie Kleinman opened the floor to questions. It was commented that any review process of bylaw changes would be intended to be in place for any by-law review and not exclusive to this proposal.
- b. Lab Transfer Credit (hybrid labs): discussion tabled until the next meeting by Lawrence Walsh.
- 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: Karen Bresciano summarized the topic and opened the floor to Maureen Armstrong who gave more detail, stating that the goal is just to remove the words “criminal history” out of the bylaws as it is not current with the policy. Concerns were raised regarding how this policy was changed without the consultation of the Senate and also whether history of sexual assault is no longer a consideration in admissions review. Maureen Armstrong shared that any history from a previous institution, which may include sexual misconduct, can be considered. Sarah Croucher shared that she thinks Athletics may have their own policy on this relating to student athletes. Karen Bresciano said that we will invite Cameron Liston to attend the CHRC committee regarding concerns raised by this group. Maureen Armstrong suggested that we bring the General Counsel’s office into the conversation as well. Jennifer Lease Butts asked a clarifying question whether this applies to both admission and readmission, or just readmission. Several committee members expressed interest in learning more about the history of this by-law change and the Senate Administrator will do some research and share any findings with the group. Karen Bresciano clarified admission processes from her perspective and closed discussion in the interest of time. Discussion will continue at a later date.

- d. [Block Transfer Proposal](#): Karen Bresciano introduced the topic and opened the floor to Sarah Croucher and Lawrence Walsh. Sarah Croucher shared that the topic was raised this week at the CCC+ Committee who raised a lot of helpful questions. Karen Bresciano thanked them for their summary and opened the floor to questions. A concern was raised regarding ensuring that students must adhere to the 40-credit gen ed minimum, as well as evaluation of skills, and Lawrence Walsh shared details on the admissions process related to these concerns. He shared that undergraduate admission to UConn is based on a holistic review (coursework, recommendation letters, school/program they are coming from, GPA, etc). He added that the GPA of admitted students has been steadily increasing. A question was raised regarding major-specific course review and whether that would be impacted if this change was approved and Lawrence Walsh shared that no, this is just for general education requirement credit transfers. Lawrence Walsh shared that he is collecting data that CCC+ requested and then he can give an update on timeline.

D. New Business

- a. AI Syllabus language and best practices/guidelines: Karen Bresciano introduced the topic and opened the floor to discussion. Jamie Kleinman shared a [series of workshops hosted by CETL](#) on AI. Kelly Burke shared that faculty in the College of Engineering have been encouraged with integrating AI into their courses – the goal is for every major to have a course on AI. She added that there was a taskforce in Engineering that created a report on AI, which she will share with the group. Jennifer Terni added that there is also an ongoing conversation in LCL on AI and that a university policy would be helpful. Holly Fitch asked if there would be any input from the academic integrity point of view, which is challenging at this point as the Office of Academic Integrity has yet to be established.

David Embrick shared concerns coming out of the social sciences that would be helped by some policy clarification or guidelines. Sarah Croucher added that we need to be clear, if adding clarifying language around the use of AI, to syllabi (learning objectives vs academic integrity). Jennifer Terni raised the question around the ethics faculty using AI to do their grading, as well as the instability of a lot of these platforms that are currently unregulated. Karen Bresciano shared that she and Jamie Kleinman will connect with Betsy McCoach, chair of the Faculty Standards Committee, to see what insights come from that group that may inform next steps.