

UConn Senate Scholastic Standards Committee

September 8, 2025, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | MS Teams

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions: Committee Chairs opened the meeting, and members went around the virtual room to introduce themselves.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes of [April 15, 2025 Meeting](#): Minutes were approved with two abstentions.
2. Old Business:
 - By-law cleanup – Academic Notice: Lindsay Cummings asked the group where we stand with this topic, which was discussed during the April 15 meeting and Senate Administrator, Michelle Everard shared that she will put together a formal resolution to make these changes and bring it to this committee for a vote before it moves to the Senate floor for approval.
 - Block Transfer [Policy & Procedures](#): Lawrence Walsh gave an update on the block transfer process and the committee reviewed the Policy & Procedures documents, linked in this agenda. He also gave an update on how the Block Transfer process went through Transfer Admissions this summer, sharing that approximately 50-55 students were reviewed this summer. Discussion ensued regarding how the Senate interacts with university policy, questions or policy ownership and Senate Administrator Michelle Everard informed the committee of the SEC subcommittee that is currently reviewing by-law vs policy structures as they pertain to the work of the Senate.
 - Lab Credit (Larry Walsh): Larry Walsh summarized that there are some concerns from his team regarding virtual lab transfer credits as it is currently drafted (below). He added, however, that this change has been on hold since last Fall and his office is happy to move forward as drafted so that there is some form of transfer for these courses to aid students. He added that this language was put together with input from faculty within the sciences and suggested that we invite a few faculty members to speak on this to the committee before Scholastic Standards issues a final recommendation or makes a motion to approve the draft language. After discussion, it was determined that Larry will collect their thoughts and share in writing rather than a presentation.

“Fully online lab science courses are only transferable for generic credit.
Hybrid lab science courses that include synchronous in-person examinations and laboratory components follow traditional credit evaluation processes.”
3. New Business

- Review of [Admissions Requirements](#): Larry Walsh summarized the issues referenced in the emails shared by a concerned faculty member regarding, adding that there was a change by the state regarding high school math graduation requirements. Larry Walsh said they will reach out to Professor Staples to discuss this issue in further detail, and do some additional information gathering with the help of Holly Fitch, and will report back to the committee. It was recommended to gather some information from Chris Todd.
- Review of AP/IB/A-level policies: Larry Walsh introduced the topic and summarized that their office has partnered with College Board to do an AP validity study to do an impact study with current UConn students. The goal of this project is to look at this group of policies to see if there is space to consider broadening those requirements. Larry Walsh will continue updating this committee on this work as it develops (reporting back in one month). The floor was opened to discussion and Jennifer Lease Butts shared that they have concerns regarding the fact that the Medical School does not accept any AP course credit as pre-requisite courses, which has an impact on a large number of students (25% of UConn students indicate they are pre-med).
- Infrastructure needs resulting from AI/Community Standards: Jennifer Terni introduced this topic, sharing that it was discussed in detail at the SEC w/ Chairs meeting on August 29. Discussion ensued regarding the gaps in support for academic integrity, and the use of artificial intelligence for students, as well as the challenges this presents to instructors and impacts on teaching. Karen Bresciano added details on the current structure of support for Academic Integrity through the Office of Community Standards, summarizing that it is not operational as passed by the University Senate (i.e. it does not report up via the Provost's Office) in May 2023. She added details regarding any old procedures still in place in this new structure, particularly those pertaining to graduate students. She stated that any educational component of this work has yet to materialize and is unlikely to be feasibly done by one person. Concerns were raised regarding how to enforce issues of academic integrity while artificial intelligence is becoming used more frequently both by students and faculty, and the difficulty of spotting cheating when AI is involved. It was suggested that Gwen Tarbox, Director of CETL, to join an upcoming committee meeting to gauge their opinion on Artificial Intelligence in the teaching sphere. Committee members shared that they think more detailed policy on how to manage the use of generative AI is needed. Alternatively, concerns were raised about writing policy to govern AI due to its quickly evolving nature and it was suggested to include CSD into these discussions. Discussion closed due to time constraints and it was determined members from Community Standards, and CETL should be invited to present and discuss these issues at a future committee meeting.
- Attendance Policy: Jennifer Terni introduced this topic, sharing that they and Lindsay Cummings have done some initial research on this project, including peer/aspirant research and have found that UConn's current "no grade for attendance" policy is an

outlier, and that there are ways to make it more flexible, stating that the university cannot impose that faculty must take attendance for grading. Clarification was added that it is possible for faculty to offer in-class assignments that are credit-bearing, which benefit students who attend class. Sarah Croucher summarized the intent of the current by-laws on this, which state a grade for a class should be based on verifiable learning, which in some classes can be tied to in-class graded activities (for example, music classes). Discussion ensued on the culture of non-attendance and how it can be slightly different from the exact by-law language, but with large impacts. Jennifer Terni summarized that the co-chairs will continue gathering data on this and do a comprehensive presentation to the committee at a future meeting to spark discussion on how to move forward.

- Re-Appointment of Honors Board Rep on SSC: Morty Ortega: Jennifer Lease Butts summarized that Scholastic Standards is the governing body that gives Honors its authority to grant Honors Degrees, and as such there is always a member of Scholastic Standards who also serves on the Honors Board, adding that Morty Ortega already serves on the Honors Board, and would like him to also serve on behalf of the Scholastic Standards Committee. The motion to appoint Morty Ortega as Scholastic Standards Representative to the Honors Board passed with one abstention by show of hands.
- Call for additional new business: Lindsay Cummings asked for new Business; items listed below.
 1. Requested follow-up on the Learning Accommodations Taskforce Report which was delivered to the SEC at the end of the Spring 2025 semester.
 2. Incomplete and Temporary Grades – general frustration around the frequency of the use of these grades, and the potential to add additional parameters around issuing them. It was also suggested that this committee collaborate with the Student Welfare Committee to work on this issue. Carrie Fernandes added they have some data on this that they would be happy to share at a future meeting.

Members & Attendance:

- ***Lindsay Cummings, Co-Chair, SFA**
- ***Jennifer Terni, Co-Chair, CLAS**
- *Dorothea Anagnostopoulos, Neag School of Education
- *Karen Bresciano, The Graduate School
- *Erin Ciarimboli, Office of Undergraduate Advising
- *David Embrick, CLAS (Hartford)
- *Holly Fitch, CLAS, Psychological Sciences
- *Morty Ortega, CAHNR
- *Carrie Fernandes, Office of Financial Aid

- Maureen Armstrong, Dean of Students Office
- Sarah Croucher, Provost's Office, Academic Affairs
- Jennifer Lease Butts, Honors and Enrichment Program (Ex-Officio)
- Brian Rockwood, Registrar's Office
- Lauren Schlesselman, CETL, Academic Program Assessment and Learning Initiatives
- Lawrence Walsh, Office of Admissions
- Christine Wenzel, Center for Students with Disabilities

*Members are Senators, Academic Year 2025-2026

Potential Upcoming Topics:

- Attendance/engagement Concerns
- NECHE/Accreditation prep
- Final exams (Dan Schwartz)
- Academic Integrity
- Artificial Intelligence
- Incomplete/Temporary Grades Policy: Do we want to revisit the topic (again)? Should another Senate committee be involved? (Erin and Maureen)