

# UConn Senate Scholastic Standards Committee

March 2, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | MS Teams

## Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes: minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.
  - [Minutes of February 16, 2026 Meeting](#)
2. Old Business:
  - Block Transfer Discussion (Lawrence Walsh); Human Services, Social Work Studies, Associate in Arts (CT State): Larry Walsh shared additional details about this program that he had collected since the last meeting, sharing that we could accept a block transfer with a special note that these students would be required to complete the first-year writing sequence as well as foreign language requirement. The committee approved the block transfer of this program unanimously by voice vote. The final approval will go to the floor of the Senate at the next meeting as a part of the consent agenda.
  - [FINAL Amended Part-Time Dean's List Resolution](#): the committee reviewed the updated draft resolution and made edits directly in the draft file. The resolution was approved with one abstention by voice vote and will go back to the senate floor at the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - Updates from SEC (meeting w/ Chairs 2/27/26)
    1. SEC will review the attendance proposal and will get back to this committee with an update in a few weeks
    2. SEC is following up with the administration regarding next steps in response to the Learning Accommodations Taskforce Report
3. New Business
  - Upcoming Financial Aid Changes (Carie Fernandes): Carrie Fernandes shared a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the ways in which the One Beautiful Bill, which passed last summer, will be impacting financial aid for the upcoming academic year. Carrie Fernandes also highlighted ways in which their office is doing outreach on these updates and shared that they have developed a new page on their website including this information publicly. Key highlights:
    1. Federal Pell Grants: if the cost of attendance is covered by grants/scholarships, no Pell Grant; this does not impact a large number of students (mainly those students whose families have a very low adjusted gross income but with a high number of assets).
    2. Federal Direct Loans (Parent PLUS Loan, Graduate PLUS Loan, Loan Proration): Graduate PLUS Loans have been eliminated entirely for now borrowers effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 and Undergraduate Parent PLUS Loans now have an annual limit of \$20,000 per dependent student with an

aggregate lifetime cap of \$65,000 per dependent student. Currently enrolled students are not impacted by these changes.

3. Borrowing Limits on Federal Loans: New lifetime limit of all loan levels (PLUS excluded) of \$257,500. Additional limits per category also highlighted in the presentation.
  4. Loan Reduction/Proration: applies to all subsidized and unsubsidized Direct Loans and prorates the annual loan limit using the number of credits enrolled for the academic year divided by the number of credits considered full-time for the academic year (12 credits per term for undergraduate students and 9 credits per term for Graduate/professional students – 12 credits per term for Pharm D students). Carrie Fernandes shared some ways that this will have impact on students as it can change term-by-term and disproportionately impact students who take reduced loads for accommodations. It will also impact graduate assistants who can take 6 credits and be considered “full-time” by UConn but not these new standards. Carrie shared a sample case showing that if a student gets a “W” on their transcript for a semester, it will now impact their aid as a “W” removes that student from full-time status during that semester, showing how complicated it will be to calculate, report and advise on such situations. Sarah Croucher added that the One Big Beautiful Bill also added metrics for evaluating programs that would factor into eligibility for aid, which is something to watch for; thus far, all UConn programs are eligible. Jennifer Terni thanked Carrie Fernandes for their presentation, and the floor was opened to questions. Discussion ensued, particularly on professional vs non-professional degrees from the perspective of financial aid and the challenges around adjusting to these new requirements.
- W AI Policy on Syllabus Recommendation (Lindsay Cummings) : Lindsay Cummings shared updates from the W Taskforce that is currently discussing and will be recommending (relevant to this committee) is a requirement for all W courses to have a statement in the syllabus to illustrate if, when and how AI (artificial intelligence) is allowed to be used.
  - Review of upcoming agenda items for future planning: not discussed due to time constraints, but members were encouraged to send any topics to the committee co-chairs for placement on an upcoming agenda. Lindsay Cummings did share that changing the UConn class schedule came up as a side discussion during the most recent SEC meeting and wanted to share.

## Members & Attendance:

- **\*Lindsay Cummings, Co-Chair, SFA**
- **\*Jennifer Terni, Co-Chair, CLAS**
- \*Dorothea Anagnostopoulos, Neag School of Education
- \*Karen Bresciano, The Graduate School
- \*Erin Ciarimoli, Office of Undergraduate Advising (*absent*)
- \*David Embrick, CLAS (Hartford) (*absent*)
- \*Holly Fitch, CLAS, Psychological Sciences

- \*Elaine Choung-Hee Lee, CAHNR
- \*Carrie Fernandes, Office of Student Financial Aid Services
- Maureen Armstrong, Dean of Students Office
- Smith Bernard, Undergraduate Student (*absent*)
- Sarah Croucher, Provost's Office, Academic Affairs
- Jennifer Lease Butts, Honors and Enrichment Program (Ex-Officio)
- Isabella Norato, Undergraduate Student
- Brian Rockwood, Registrar's Office
- Lauren Schlesselman, CETL, Academic Program Assessment
- Nadia Upah, Graduate Student (*absent*)
- Lawrence Walsh, Office of Admissions
- Christine Wenzel, Center for Students with Disabilities

\*Members are Senators, Academic Year 2025-2026

### Potential Upcoming Topics:

- NECHE/Accreditation prep
- Final exams (Dan Schwartz)
- Incomplete/Temporary Grades Policy: Do we want to revisit the topic (again)? Should another Senate committee be involved? (Erin and Maureen)
- [Course Learning Objectives](#) (awaiting SEC)
- CLAS class/GA policy
- Attendance Policy Survey Update (awaiting SEC feedback)
  - [CLAS Attendance survey 1-30-26 data.pdf](#)