

Minutes

Faculty Standards Committee of the University Senate

Monday, November 4, 2024 (2:00 – 3:30 PM, MS Teams)

1. Welcome

- *Betsy McCoach, Chair, Neag School of Education
- *Bede Agocha, CLAS, Africana Studies Institute (Fall 2024 only)
- *Robert Bird, Business
- *Scott Campbell, CLAS
- *Joseph Crivello, CLAS
- *Kimberly Cuevas, CLAS (Waterbury Campus)
- *Horea Ilies, Engineering
- *Elizabeth Jockusch, CLAS
- *Anastasios Tzingounis, CLAS
- Gladis Kersaint, Office of the Provost (Ex-Officio)
- Kylene Perras, Office of Outreach & Engagement
- John Richardson, Fine Arts
- Martina Rosenberg, CETL, Faculty Development

*Senate Member 2024/2025

2. Review and Adoption of Minutes from [10/7/2024 Meeting](#) : minutes approved unanimously

3. SET Instrument Review and Revision

- a. [Draft document](#)
- b. Betsy McCoach shared their screen and the committee reviewed the Draft Document (linked in point a). Discussion ensued regarding point 1 of the document which reviews a proposal of establishing a review cadence of the SETs, as well as determine whether the work should be done by this committee or a separate ad hoc group. Notes are in the file and a full description of committee definitions is available [here](#). Discussion ended due to time constraints; this topic will be taken up at the next meeting.

4. Updates from the Provost's Office – Gladis Kersaint

- a. Low Enrollment Program Reviews: Gladis Kersaint summarized that there has been much concern around this topic, particularly around the threshold identified for programs that are undergoing review/assessment. Gladis Kersaint shared some details about the process, highlighting that some so that some programs that have not had any enrollment or completion in several years, but had not been formally closed, were still appearing as active programs; and others that were showing as “low enrollment” actually were not, for a variety of reasons, that were not documented correctly in the

data, which has been amended. Gladis Kersaint added that it was not by design or intent as a precursor to faculty lay-offs, stating that this has been a point made in the media. Elizabeth Jockusch asked whether the data took into account primary majors vs secondary majors for double-majors and Gladis Kersaint said she will double-check. Robert Bird asked if there is any external influence prompting the Provost's Office to look into these changes. Gladis Kersaint shared that doing this now is timely due to several reasons, and budget is one of them, as well as accreditation requirements and long-term benefits to the university. Anastasios Tzingounis asked who will be making decisions on programs to be closed, and when. Gladis Kersaint answered that the Provost's Office and the Deans will work together and engage the academic units and departments before any final decisions are made. Betsy McCoach asked a clarifying question regarding the timeline of this work, and Gladis Kersaint confirmed that conversations started with the Deans last Spring semester. Discussion ensued around communication and how this has been received by faculty and discussed in the news. Kimberly Cuevas asked about programs that are primarily based on regional campuses and how they are being considered differently, if at all, compared to programs based on the Storrs campus. Gladis Kersaint said that promoting support of regional campus program delivery is considered in this, and other cases. Elizabeth Jockusch shared concerns about the tone of the messaging sent by the Provost and the President after the initial news story. Betsy McCoach asked a question about class sizes and whether there are class size minimum standards that may be developed as a result of this study. Gladis Kersaint stated that faculty workload teaching time and the number of students they teach are both metrics that are being assessed, and that some academic units already have class size minimums; the intent is to document what the standard is across the university. Betsy McCoach added that she is the Senate Representative to the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee and that they will bring anything from those meetings back to the Faculty Standards Committee and SEC.

5. Jamie Kleinman (3:00 p.m.) Pilot Proposal, Collection of SLO data using SETs
 - a. Jamie Kleinman introduced a proposal which would be to include an evaluation of learning objectives in the SET form for general education (common curriculum) courses only starting in Fall 2027. Martina Rosenberg shared a Teaching Assessment Strategy that is being utilized successfully at universities in Germany as a potential footprint to follow when considering changes to the SET. Discussion ensued and an idea was proposed to decouple this from the SETs, though concerns were raised regarding the logistics of making this feasible and not overwhelming students with multiple surveys.

6. New Business:
 - a. none

7. Announcements:
 - a. none

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.