

UConn Senate Scholastic Standards Committee

April 20, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | MS Teams

Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes: minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.
 - [Minutes of April 6th Meeting](#)
2. Announcements:
 - Lindsay Cummings shared a workshop hosted by the UConn Humanities Institute called “Scaling Up Pedagogy” on May 4th from 12 – 2 p.m. and committee members are encouraged to attend and spread the news.
3. Old Business:
 - Attendance Policy Next Steps: Lindsay Cummings reintroduced this topic and asked if anyone had heard of volunteers interested in joining these efforts since the announcement at the April Senate meeting. Jennifer Terni shared that some colleagues had contacted her and committee members were encouraged to email Lindsay Cummings or Jennifer Terni with interest and/or questions. Holly Fitch recommended a diverse representation from faculty in the arts as well as those in the sciences who manage lab courses. Jennifer Terni added that Associate Deans from different colleges and representatives from regional campuses would also be helpful to include.
 1. [SEC Letter](#)
4. New Business
 - Reading Days/Calendar: Lindsay Cummings stated that a student has raised concerns regarding reading days on weekdays (there is one reading day that falls on a Thursday during the fall semester) and restructuring the calendar in a way that allows for this and an additional break in the fall as waiting until Thanksgiving break has proven to be challenging for students. Brian Rockwood shared that much of this is tied to financial aid regulations that require a certain number of instructional weeks, adding that we have looked at allowing exams to run later, but it runs into the holidays for grading deadlines. If we look into starting earlier, it is also challenging as it impacts housing, other student support units and summer/winter course calendars. Sarah Croucher added that they have experience at universities that shorten the Thanksgiving break to include an earlier fall break and many students just skip classes that week (especially if they have to travel), which has a negative impact on academics. It was recommended that the registrar’s office create a video about scheduling to explain the reasoning behind the academic calendar and finals as it stands. Jennifer Lease Butts stated they are in favor of at least a document to help support these questions that come up very frequently without a resolution that pleases everyone. Lindsay Cummings thanked committee members for their feedback and said they will respond to the student with this information.

- **AI Policy (Lindsay Cummings & Jennifer Terni):** Lindsay Cummings shared this as a potential topic based on discussions taking place in the W Taskforce (CCC Taskforce) Lindsay shared that the W Taskforce has been looking at the current W guidelines for the university and they established an AI subgroup that has drafted recommendations relevant to Scholastic Standards. The committee reviewed the DRAFT W taskforce recommendations for feedback to see if there is anything that SSC would like to take up for discussion next academic year:
 1. Syllabus statement for when AI may be used for instruction and how students may use AI tools
 2. Renewed FERPA instruction for all instructors to ensure they are not accidentally entering any protected information into AI, especially systems other than those with university **licenses** (i.e. Microsoft **CoPilot**)
 3. Disclosure of when and how student data (including their work) will be used.
 4. Recommendation that faculty disclose to students if AI is used in grading and/or instructional creation.

Sarah Croucher added some updates on AI from the perspective of the Provost's Office, such as developing AI committees and program development. They added that questions about syllabus statements are firmly within the charge of this committee and added that no additional policy is needed about rules around FERPA; FERPA rules always apply and identifiable student information should never be entered into a system outside of the university's data protected ecosystem. Sarah Croucher also added that having faculty include an AI policy in their syllabi may also better operationalize academic integrity related to artificial intelligence as it will help support cases if faculty members give clear guidelines for their students at the start of term. It was discussed that after reviewing the final W Taskforce report, this committee will take up the discussion of requiring an AI policy as a requirement for all syllabi.

- [Babbidge Scholar & New England Scholar recognition By-Law Change Proposal](#) (Jennifer Lease Butts): Jennifer Lease Butts shared the history of these awards, which have existed for about 30 years, to celebrate academic achievement. They added that the format is unique in that they look at a calendar year (as opposed to academic year) and awards any student in that calendar year and awards students with a 3.7 (New England Scholar) and 4.0 (Babbidge) respectively regardless of school or college. This is separate from Dean's List, which can vary from school/college. It is technically an award that comes from the Provost's Office but is managed and handed out by Honors & Enrichment. When these awards originated, there was a ceremony where students were awarded their certificates and it was a big celebration. Post-COVID-19, ceremonies have no longer been held for these awards, but they still receive pins that they can wear at graduation. Jennifer Lease Butts proposes some language to go into the Senate Rules & Regulations to codify how these awards are handled. The committee reviewed the proposal and made direct edits into the draft. Discussion ensued and the committee voted to approve this proposed change to the Senate Rules & Regulations unanimously by voice vote.
- [Committee Annual Report draft](#) : Lindsay Cummings stated that the co-chairs are still finalizing this report and summarized that this report will be sent to the full

Senate and presented at the May meeting. Committee members were advised to review the draft and enter any comments or questions.

Members & Attendance:

- ***Lindsay Cummings, Co-Chair, SFA**
- ***Jennifer Terni, Co-Chair, CLAS**
- *Dorothea Anagnostopoulos, Neag School of Education
- *Karen Bresciano, The Graduate School (*absent*)
- *Erin Ciarimboli, Office of Undergraduate Advising
- *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 (*absent*)
- 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