

Minutes  
Senate Scholastic Standards Committee  
February 6, 2007  
(Approved Feb. 20, 2007)

Members: (attending members in bold): **Andrew Moiseff (Chair)**, John Bennett, Jason Berger, Robert Casapulla, Gerald Gianutsos, **Lynne Goodstein**, **Lawrence Gramling**, Kristin Kelly, Diane Lillo-Martin, **Dennis McGavran**, **Kathryn Myers**, **Thomas Recchio**, Stuart Sidney, **Jeffrey von Munwitz-Smith**, Lauren Smith, David Wagner, **Robert Weiner**

1. The 1/25/07 minutes were approved

2. Dr. Lynne Goodstein gave the committee a report about the Honors Program. Some of the highlights of her report included:

- The yearly admission goal for honors is approximately 250 students/yr.
- Average SATs for Honors students is currently ~1400 compared to ~1310 in 1996.
- The average class rank for enrolled honors students is ~96%.
- Total honors enrollment is currently ~1184, which is ~7% of the undergraduate population at Storrs. The greatest number of these students are in CLAS (531).
- In 2005, 50% of Honors sophomores students received Sophomore Honors Certificates compared to ~25% in 2004.
- In 2005 a total of 141 students graduated as Honors scholars.
- The Honors Program has been sponsoring the development of courses that would constitute elements of an Honors core curriculum. This is increasing the courses available to honors students at the 100's and 200's level. In 2005, ~94% of honors students were enrolled in Freshman Honors Seminar.
- The Honors Program has developed an Honors Community that includes first-year residential housing and upperclass housing. About 1/3 of honors students are in honors housing.
- Other honors programs include the University Scholar program, which accepts about 20 student/year, and Honors Study Abroad programs.

3. The committee reviewed a proposal from the Honors Program to revise the requirements for the Sophomore Honors Certificate. The revised requirements reflect the availability of honors Core courses and the importance for students to participate in honors sponsored events for developing the 'community'. The committee approved the proposed changes (5 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstain).

4. The committee reviewed a proposal from the Honors Program to revise the Honors Scholar requirements for BGS students. The revision brings their requirements in line in line with those of students in other programs. The committee approved the proposed changes (5 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstain).

5. INTD course review update. The latest draft of revised procedures for INTD course review was distributed and briefly discussed. The draft addresses the points we brought up at our last meeting. Briefly, INTD courses are divided into two categories – those that are 'affiliated' with academic departments and/or schools/colleges, and those that are not. Courses that are affiliated

would be reviewed by the C&C committees of all participating departments and the INTD C&C committee. 'Unaffiliated' courses would be reviewed by INTD C&C committee and also by the Senate C&C committee. This ensures review by at least 2 independent faculty groups. R. Jeffers, chair of Senate C&C committee was consulted about the plan and thought that the plan was workable, in concept. The practicality of Senate C&C committee involvement in this process would depend, in part, on the number of courses involved. Our committee felt that this latest plan was worth pursuing since it addressed many of the concerns that were originally raised.

6. Double Major Update. A summary of the major points brought up when the plan was discussed in the Senate was distributed. We are waiting to receive feedback from CLAS C&C about any concerns they may have. We may want to consider adding a 'rider' to the motion that would require a study of the details involved in providing dual majors (e.g., reciprocity between schools, admission and eligibility requirements for participation, etc.) before allowing implementation of the plan.

7. Finals rescheduling update. The committee was informed about a meeting between Dean of Students Williams, V. Prov. Makowsky, the Registrar (von Munkwitz-Smith) and A. Moiseff to discuss how the DoS dealt with requests for rescheduling finals. Dean Williams plans to make the process more transparent to students and faculty by publicizing the 'guidelines' used to determine whether circumstances warrant rescheduling of finals. Her list of guidelines will include examples of reasons that justify rescheduling (e.g., 3 or more exams on one day) as well as examples of circumstances that would not generally be considered adequate reason for rescheduling (e.g., oversleeping). Faculty should place the scheduled time of their final in their course syllabus – a preliminary schedule of finals is available from the registrar – so that students that need to make travel or other plans for the end of the semester can avoid conflicts.

8. Academic Integrity. Pending typographical corrections, the committee's statement about academic integrity and proposed policies for dealing with academic misconduct are now in a form for general consumption. It will be distributed to different groups to begin the process of soliciting comments from the broader University community.