

Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions Annual Report 2020-21

The committee members are:

Hunter Gardner, Languages, Chair (term ending 2021)
Daniella Cook, Instruction and Teacher Education, cookda2@mailbox.sc.edu (2021)
Celeste Caulder, Pharmacy, caulderc@cop.sc.edu (2022)
Katherine Jones, Nursing, kate.jones@sc.edu (2022)
Amie Freeman, Libraries, dillarda@mailbox.sc.edu (2023)
Andy Kretschmar, Law, kretschm@law.sc.edu (2023)
Scott Verzyl, ex-officio, Admissions, verzyl@email.sc.edu
Aaron Marterer, ex-officio, University Registrar, acmarte@mailbox.sc.edu
New student member
[New faculty member to replace Daniella: Robert Kopack \(geography, through 2021 spring\)](#)

SSP Committee, annual report 2020-2021

Business of 2020-2021 included:

- Passing revisions to Bulletin about student status and application for graduation procedure (December FS meeting 2020).
- Hearing petition from Student govt about Pass/fail option (initial meeting Nov. 2020), follow up meeting in January (1/13/21), Riley Rogers presenting student.

During meeting of 1/13, Committee decided to craft a compromise measure that (if passed by FS) would allow students to make their case for COVID-related hardship during fall 2020; in such cases the burden would be on the student to check with advisors (and obtain signature) about the repercussions of opting for pass/fail. After further consultation with Aaron Marterer in the Registrar's Office, we decided that a widespread policy allowing such retroactive revisions would be impossible to implement.

SSP also discussed briefly a potential problem with the absence policy: should "practice" (i.e., football practice) be considered an "event" that would warrant excused absence from class? At this time the committee has no indication that the lack of clarity here has been exploited by students, but will revisit issue if we hear more faculty complaints.

- Working with Jenn Tilford, etc. to revise dual majors/vs. dual degree policy. During 5/3 meeting the committee heard from Aaron Marterer about how the new proposal would align current practice regarding dual degrees/double majors with USC policy. It will also make it easier for students to know what courses can be applied to which degrees/majors (more clear cut rules about course sharing=less need for advisor discretion concerning which courses can be applied to a particular program). Committee was satisfied with AM and JT's presentation and has agreed to bring it before FS meeting in June. The measure was passed in the June FS meeting.

Other Business, Discussed at SSP meeting on 5/3/2021:

SBL (112) 111 "A RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH A STANDARDIZED GRADING SCALE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA"

This legislation recommends that the University encourage professors to adopt a standardized grading scale across courses and colleges. The legislation cites the lack of a current standard grading scale causing frequent stress for students in more difficult classes that have a non-traditional grading scale. It cites implementation of a standardized grading scale as not only relieving students of worry, but granting professors a better basis by which to structure their course by (*sic*).

After discussion with Steering, get final word from SSP and ask CTE to help work out statement on Grading Scale.

(Decided not to implement, but will address student concerns and raise issue with FS in June 2021 meeting; we did not have an opportunity to bring this up to FS in June meeting.)

Also, Reenea Harrison (Retailing) elected as new member of SSP.

Chair met with Trena Houp for standards/requirements for “Carolina Online”; Trena attended to questions at the 5/3 meeting. GPA requirements and program requirements policy were to be presented for approval in FS meeting June. The Carolina Online GPA standards (approved at earlier SSP meeting) was not addressed at the FS meeting; lack of time on agenda, but also some hesitancy regarding recent decision to slow down implementation of Carolina Online.

We also discussed (briefly) the petition of a student who has been dismissed from AS of Public Health (Cailin Berry). Chair agreed to solicit further information about ASPH’s standards for undergrad program and collect info from the student’s academic advisors.

Mark Cooper informed SSP that they had met with the new speaker and president pro term of the student senate last week: student government wanted to work on a requirement to report midterm grades.

7/2021, SSP helped Cooper and Steering Committee outline guidelines for best practices in the classroom. See https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/faculty-toolbox/covid19_and_the_classroom/index.php

But expect further requests for updates as conditions evolve.

Celeste Caulder has graciously agreed to step up as chair of SSP for A.Y. 2021-22.

Respectfully submitted,
Hunter H. Gardner