Call to order: The third meeting of the Academic Standards Committee of the 2014-2015 academic year was called to order by Dr. Schwell at 3:05 PM.

1. Approval of meeting minutes from the November 18, 2014 meeting. Motion (Mulrooney/Schwell) to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2014 meeting.
   • Voted all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.
2. Update on status of various items passed by the committee. (Latour)
   • Changes to admissions requirements for the School of Business. No movement, as there are other changes that should be implemented at the same time that are being processed by other committees.
   • Committee bylaws. No movement. There is at least one other committee not ready to change their bylaws to reflect to new School names, and the Senate wants to consider all the changes as part of a single omnibus bill.
3. PAL (prior assessment of learning) committee (McGrath)
   • As a model, we are looking at awarding credit towards an MBA specialization (6 credits) for people who have completed the Charter Oak Underwriting certificate. It’s an online, 12-credit certificate.
   • Glynis Fitzgerald would like a resolution of support from this committee
   • Bigley: Can you get this certificate without an undergraduate degree?
     • Mulrooney: Yes, but you can’t get into the MBA program without an undergraduate degree, so we don’t have to worry about that.
• **Motion** (Mulrooney/McGrath) The Academic Standards Committee is supportive of the Graduate Studies Committee’s plan to award 12 credits of graduate credit in the MBA program to those who have completed the CPCU certificate.
  - All in favor. **Motion passed.**

4. **General Studies Degree (Mulrooney)**

- Many if not most other schools have a General Studies degree, including Eastern Connecticut State University and the University of Connecticut. We routinely lose students to Charter Oak because we do not have a degree, reducing our retention and graduation rates. The proposal requires students to complete half of their credits in 300-400 level classes, and they could not declare this major until they had completed 60 credits. The degree is aimed at those who have accumulated many credits, but are not close to finished a traditional major. They may want a job that simply requires a degree, whatever the major. It is not aimed at incoming 18-year-olds. This sort of proposal has been made several times in the past and never been implemented.
- Question: Is 60 credits enough?
  - Mulrooney: 90 credits would be far too many, and 60 seems to be the standard at all the schools we’ve looked at. This is not a prestige degree. Students understand that they’d be better off with a traditional major.
  - Durant: How do we advertise this? Billboards?
    - Moore: Sandwich boards?
    - Hall: This needs to be done very carefully. There are several distinct populations that might be attracted to this degree. Some might transition from this to a regular degree, some might just need it to move ahead in a job they already have. There are students at CCSU with very high GPAs who haven’t finished because a single class that they just can’t seem to do.
  - Bigley: This seems like it could be very labor intensive to plan for each student. I would suggest creating a more substantial framework that students could build upon.
  - Bigley: Do we need BOR approval to do this?
    - Mulrooney: or is it a modification to the Special Studies degree?
      ◊ Latour: Special studies is the opposite of General Studies: it must be declared early
    - Tucker: So this will indeed be a new degree
  - Schwell – We should form a subcommittee, possibly with the Curriculum Committee to refine this proposal.
    - Volunteers?
      ◊ Mulrooney ◊ Bigley ◊ Higham
      ◊ Tucker ◊ Hall ◊ McGrath
      ◊ Need additional teaching faculty and representation from all the schools
      ◊ Recruit from curriculum: Wolfe?
    - Group needs to pick a chair

5. **Motion** (Schwell/Mulrooney) for adjournment. Voted all in favor, none opposed, none abstained. **Motion passed.** The third meeting of the Academic Standards Committee of the 2014-2015 academic year was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Moore, Secretary