1. Call to order: The second meeting of the Academic Standards Committee of the 2013-2014 academic year was called to order by Dr. Schwell at 3:05pm.

2. Approval of meeting minutes from the September 17, 2013 meeting. Motion (Schwell/Melnyk) to approve the minutes from the April 2013 meeting with the following change:
   - Correct accent in Lillián Uribe
   - Follow up to English placement exam proposal
     - Mulrooney: Based on the SAT range presented, about 800 students last year would have fallen into this range. This is more than indicated at last meeting.
     - Provost Lovitt: This has serious financial implications
     - Schwell: The proposal may have been modified to reduce the number of readers for each essay to keep costs down. Reducing the number of readers per essay, for example.
     - Mulrooney: What impact will reading all those essays have on course enrollments and the deadlines for the admissions office?
   - Replace “first meeting” with “first meeting of the academic year” in two places.
   - Voted all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.
New Business:

3. Prior Assessment of Learning, C. Lovitt
   - Given the we want to increase the size of the student body and make up for declining numbers of high school graduates, adult learners need to be encouraged.
   - One way to do this is to give credit for learning done outside the classroom
   - Charter Oak and Eastern do this already
     - Eastern:
       - Limits number of credits that can be earned this way to 60.
       - Does not count these credits towards residency requirements.
       - Requires that students must be at least 25 years old
       - Requires that students must be enrolled at Eastern and have completed some classes.
     - Charter Oak (CO)
       - Has a class on portfolio building
       - Trains professors to read portfolios
       - Is willing to provide structure for our own efforts, including training CCSU professors to grade portfolios for CCSU classes.
       - Charges students a fraction of tuition to have portfolios graded and to take portfolio class.
   - Schwell:
     - We should form a sub-committee to investigate. Volunteers are:
       - Kate McGrath
       - Jim Mulrooney
       - Sharon Braverman
       - Patrick Tucker
       - TBD Grad Studies committee representative.
         - **RS will contact grad studies chair to recruit member.**

4. Discussion of redefining class structure
   - RS: would like to begin discussion of how to label students, as the current system sometimes give students the false impression that they are close to graduation.
   - PT / JM: The current method is a fairly universal one, and changing it may have far-reaching implications for student loans, graduation rate reporting etc.

Unfinished Business

5. Proposal to grant “Dean’s Recognition” honors to high-achieving students who earn fewer than 62 credits at CCSU. (Marianne Fallon)
   - Feedback from several departments was received. Reviews were mixed, both strongly positive and strongly negative opinions were present. The main concerns were:
     - This award would favor students who did poorly in their first two years at another school over students who spend all four years at CCSU and do poorly in their first two years here.
     - That there are too many awards in general.
With only 30 credits we don’t have time to fully evaluate if students are worthy of an award.

It is easier to maintain a high GPA for just a few semesters, and so the bar is too low.

- **MF:** Statistical analysis performed to investigate the idea that GPA will be higher for students who only study at CCSU for a few semesters. It shows that there is a statistically important difference in grades based on number of credits earned at CCSU. However, further analysis shows that most of this difference cannot be attributed solely to the number of credits earned. Due to the large quantity of data, statistical significance is almost guaranteed, but this is not the same as practical significance.

- **Many suggestions for improvement were made**
  - Open award to all CCSU students based on last X credits earned. (X is a credit level to be determined)
    - **PT:** This is possible, but students continually transfer in summer classes at community colleges etc, so drawing a line in the sand may be a challenge.
  - Enlarge department honors so that transfer students can be honored.
    - **RS:** This would change the meaning of department honors, which already serve an important function.
  - Creation of a system-wide honors system for students who transfer between us and our sister schools.

- **Motion: Schwell / Geller: Send proposal back for further revisions.**
  - All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. **Motion passed.**

6. **Proposal for the Global Scholar Initiative (GSI).** (Lillián Uribe)

- **Revised version of the GSI presented. Main changes**
  - Some points from Category A (International Experience) are now required.
  - “Overseas” replaced with “International” throughout.
  - Minimum grade requirement for “Study International” and “Course International” activities in Category A have been removed.
  - A year abroad now garners 9 points, to distinguish it from the 6 earned for a semester abroad.

- **LU:** Reminded committee that members of many different departments, including geography, were included in crafting this proposal, as were members of the International Area Studies Committee.

- **FL:** Recommend changing “for credit” to “for which credit has been earned” in the “Study International” activity of Category A to ensure that students pass their classes.

- **Motion: Mulrooney/Bigley: approve proposal.**
  - All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. **Motion passed.**
Motion (Schwell/McGrath) for adjournment. Voted all in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed. The second meeting of the Academic Standards Committee of the 2013-2014 academic year was adjourned at 4:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Moore, Secretary