1. Call to order: The first meeting of the Academic Standards Committee was called to order by Dr. Schwell at 3:05pm.

2. Approval of meeting minutes from the April 2013 meeting. Motion (Schwell/Melnyk) to approve the minutes from the April 2013 meeting with the following change: correct first initial of N. Raajpoot in attendance record. Voted all in favor, none opposed, Mulrooney and Geller abstained. Motion passed.

3. New Business:
   1) Proposal for the Global Scholar Initiative (GSI).
      Global Scholar Initiative will be a stamp on student transcripts that will be bestowed once students meet the criteria described in the program description. They must earn 12 points across three of the following four categories: international experience aboard, language proficiency, experience at CCSU with an international focus, and experience external to CCSU with an international focus. Several students applied in spring 2013, after the program was advertised per consultations with Dean Lemma and Provost Lovitt. Some faculty felt that the GSI should be vetted by Academic Standards and other faculty committees.
      The committee raised the following concerns, with responses indented:
• In the “International Experience Abroad” Category, 6 points are granted for a semester or year abroad, but 4 points is granted for a 2-week course. Is this weighted properly?
  o Schwell and others felt that too much weight might be placed on short courses.
  o Uribe: Short courses are very intense.
  o Castañeda: 6 points is half of the necessary points for the designation, and so more would not actually help the students. 4 points is the average required from each of the three categories, so that seems appropriate
  o Further discussion postponed.
• Should it be specified that these are “student” scholars?
  o Mulrooney: this would be redundant, as the stamp is placed on a student transcript.
• What is a “non-credit distinction”?
  o The Internationalization lab did not want this to be a certificate or a degree, and so many common nouns had to be avoided. This is the result. It is similar to the other academic awards stamped on transcripts, such as magna cum laude or summa cum laude.
• Would an independent study abroad count?
  o Uribe: Yes!
• Is it possible to earn the distinction without leaving New Britain?
  o Uribe and Wagner: Yes.
  o Geller/ Wizevich and others felt that this may be inappropriate, though it was appreciated that many students may not have the financial flexibility to go on a trip.
• What happens to category C (international experience at CCSU) if the “I” designation for courses is removed as part of a revision of the general education requirements?
  o This would require revision of the definitions.
  o It appears that the imminent revision of gen-ed requirements will retain the “I” designation.
• What is the procedure to revise the program?
  o Mulrooney, Schwell: The same as original approval. It must go through Academic Standards and other committees.
• Are there any other similar stamps?
  o Tucker: no. This is setting a precedent.
• Minimum grade requirement for a semester abroad should probably be a GPA requirement, in case a single class goes badly.
  o Uribe, Wagner: Agreed
• Who grades the required essay?
  o Uribe, Wagner: This will be done by the Internationalization Lab faculty
Richard Benfield read a prepared statement from the Department of Geography:

*The Department of Geography is opposed to the proposed Global Scholar program as presented to our Department on a Flyer/Poster on our walls in June based on the following reservations:

1. There was no prior discussion /consultation with departments, committees of Senate (Particularly Academic standards and Curriculum) or other interested parties. This is totally in conflict with the principals of faculty/shared governance.
2. Twelve credits (generally four courses) of “I” designation are far too few credits for awarding a Global Scholar award – especially when there are literally hundreds of courses with an “I” designation in the course offerings.
3. To possibly award “Global” status to an individual who potentially has never taken a Geography and/or CIE sponsored course abroad and thus may never have left Connecticut is laughable.

With respect, the Department of Geography recommends to the Academic Standards sub-committee of Senate that they disapprove or they request withdrawal of the program and entertain re-submission only when the full proposal has been reviewed by:

a) The Faculty Senate following detailed input from
b) The IASC (on which the CIE has ex-officio status)
c) Interested departments
d) Curriculum Committee
e) Academic Standards Committee

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY SEPTEMBER 12, 2013.

• General discussion followed that described the efforts that had been made to gather input from the campus community.
• Committee expressed general support for the proposal, and believed that the changes discussed maximize the chance of eventual Senate approval.
• Motion: McGrath/Horan: send proposal back to incorporate suggestions, and re-present at next Academic Standards meeting.
  o 12 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstain (Mulrooney). Motion passed.

2) Proposal on placement standards into remedial English
Cohen: Current system relies exclusively on SAT and ACT scores to place students in their first English class. This has been shown in studies to be an inaccurate system, and our experience at CCSU bears this out. Some students are placed too high, struggle, and may drop out, and other waste time in remedial classes they do not need.

English department proposes replacing this with a timed online essay test for students who fall into a range of scores on the SAT or ACT. Range not finalized, but may be about 400-
Scores below will take the remedial ENG099, and scores above will be placed in ENG110.

The committee raised the following concerns, with responses indented:

- **How many students will need to be tested?**
  - Cohen: 400-500.

- **What about students who try to register the day before classes start?**
  - Cohen: There will be a window to take the test. Students who register very late will have to wait till the next semester to be placed.

- **How will graders be paid?**
  - Cohen: Provost has provided funding.

- **Is it possible to place out of ENG110?**
  - Cohen: Students may use AP credit against 110, and very occasionally students will be placed into higher level classes, but they still must take an English class.

- **What is the purpose of the demographic data that is collected? Does this need approval from the Human Studies Council?**
  - Einhorn: this is not a research study, so the HSC is not required. We are just trying to know and understand our students.

- **Will graders be able to see the demographic info?**
  - Cohen: No.

- **Will this increase faculty load?**
  - Cohen: By reducing failure and recidivism, hopefully net effect will be small. Provost is aware that this may cost money initially.

- **Can students cheat on online test?**
  - Einhorn: cheating hard to do, since there are several different essay questions.
  - Cohen: cheating rare on placement tests

- **What if students avoid taking the placement test? Could they be kicked out for lack of progress?**
  - Cohen: we need to have good tracking and follow through.

- **Motion (Schwell / Moore) to approve the proposal**
  - All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion (Schwell/Moore) for adjournment. Voted all in favor, none opposed, none abstained. **Motion passed.** The first meeting of the Academic Standards Committee was adjourned at 4:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Moore, Secretary