Members of the 2018-2019 Committee on Student Affairs and Athletics were:

Allison Sterrett-Krause, Classics (Chair)
Bonnie Devet, English
Jay Forsythe, Chemistry
Christy Kollath-Cattano, Health and Human Performance
Henry Xie, Management and Marketing
Jeffrey Butcher, Student Government representative
Olivia LaPorte, Student Government representative
Jeri Cabot, Dean of Students, ex officio member

The Faculty Senate Committee on Student Affairs and Athletics (FSCSAA) met four times over the 2018-2019 academic year. The major projects of the committee were continued work on the Honor Code sanctions revision (a project carried over from previous years) and selection of the recipient of the Alexander Chambliss Connelley Award. The committee did not hear any grievance cases in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Scope of the committee
In September 2018, Vince Begnini, Faculty Athletics Representative, met with the members of FSCSAA. The FAR is an ex officio member of the committee, as is the Athletic Director. Dr. Begnini explained that NCAA membership requires that the College have an Athletics Oversight Committee, which includes both faculty and staff. Athletics issues have been funneled to this committee in recent years. Dr. Begnini requested that, if athletics or student athletes come to the attention of the Faculty Senate committee, we should contact the AOC. As no issues of this nature arose in 2018-2019, the committee confined its work to Student Affairs.

Honor Code Sanctions revision
This long-term project began in 2016-2017 at the request of the Dean of Students and an ad hoc committee tasked with a periodic review of the Honor Code policy. The 2018-2019 committee inherited a working proposal for updates to the presentation of the Honor Code in the student handbook and policy list. The working proposal also included changes to certain sanctions for violations of the Honor Code. In summary these changes are:

1) Present the three classes of Honor Code violations, along with example offenses and possible sanctions, in a tabular format rather than the current long list;
2) Add descriptive labels to each class of sanction, such that Class 1 violations are “severe,” Class 2 violations are “serious,” and Class 3 violations are “cautionary”.

3) Revise the penalty for a second offense of the same class. Currently all repeat offenses become Class 1 (expellable) offenses automatically. The committee proposes to reduce the penalty for a second Class 3 offense committed by a student to a Class 2 offense.

4) Add possible sanctions to the penalties for Class 2, such that course failure is not the only possible outcome. The proposal calls for attaching a notation of academic dishonesty on the transcript to grades other than F (XX-grade, e.g. XXB, XXC, etc.) for instances where a less severe penalty is warranted by individual circumstances of the Honor violation. The notation could be removed after a period of time via petition, leaving the grade standing.

The FSCSAA, represented by the Chair, worked closely with the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Standards (Ricard Vinas de Puig, Chair) to finalize a proposal for consideration by the Faculty Senate. The chairs of both committees, and Dean Jeri Cabot, met with representatives of the Registrar’s office on two occasions in fall 2018 to discuss logistics and possible concerns. After presentation of the proposal at January’s Senate meeting, where it was tabled after long discussion, representatives of both committees attended a meeting of the Academic Council to discuss the proposal further.

At issue in both the Academic Council and the Senate was point 4 of the proposal, the XX-grade sanction. Concerns arose about the nature of the transcript and whether the transcript is the appropriate location for recording such information. Further significant concerns were raised about awarding credit and quality points for work completed under a cloud of academic dishonesty and about the petition process for removing the academic dishonesty notation. [NB: the petition process for proposed new XX-grade sanction is identical to the petition process already in place for removal of XX-status marker from XX-F grades.]

A possible way forward was suggested by Registrar Mary Bergstrom, the institution of a grade similar to Incomplete, carrying no credits or quality points, which could be imposed for a Class 2 violation and changed to a final faculty-calculated grade after completion of academic sanctions and/or petition. Provost McGee proposed a working group of members of the Academic Council and the two committees to consider this option, but the working group was not seated in the 2018-2019 year.

Alexander Chambliss Connelley Award
The committee solicited nominations for the Alexander Chambliss Connelley Award via email (to faculty, staff, and students) and Yammer (announcement posted in each academic school group). Nominations were received for 12 students. In April, the committee selected Samantha Krantz as the ACC award winner for 2019. Allison Sterrett-Krause represented the committee at the SAIL awards.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Sterrett-Krause, Chair
May 14, 2019