

Student Affairs Committee (SAC) of the University of Vermont Faculty Senate 2016-2017 Annual Report

Committee Members: Don Loeb, Scott VanKeuren, Jane Molofsky, Thomas Chittenden (Co-Chair), Jennifer Prue (Co-Chair), William Louisos, Jeffrey Hughes, Omar Oyarzabal, Dan DeSanto, Zail Berry, Kristen Pierce, Kenneth Allen, Hillary Brown, Martin Thaler

http://www.uvm.edu/faculty_senate/student_affairs_committee

The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) addressed the following topics this year.

1. **UVM Administrative F Policy.** Through thorough conversations on the topic of the grade letter 'F', Brian Reed championed the change our committee unanimously endorsed last year. Brian Reed shepherded this adjustment through to adoption with all required catalog and policy changes. The new policy should take effect in the coming academic year and will assign an AF (or AUP) instead of an indistinguishable 'F' when a grade is not submitted by the faculty member before the registrar deadline.
2. **Academic Integrity Policy.** The SAC formed a subcommittee to explore changes to our Academic Integrity policy to give students fair recourse should they believe a UVM faculty member inappropriately adjudicated an academic integrity violation outside of the university mandated process. Through many hours of tireless work by subcommittee members Don Loeb, Ken Allen and Dan DeSanto, new language was submitted to the Vice Provost of Student Affairs (Annie Stevens) for adoption consideration. This language was crafted with feedback from UVM General Counsel (Lucy Singer), Center for Student Conduct leadership (Kim Martin & Deanna Garrett-Ostermiller), the Student Affairs Committee and feedback was heard from the full body of the Faculty Senate.
3. **myUVM Integrated Course Evaluation Platform.** The Student Affairs Committee moved that the previously SAC passed resolution (unanimously on April 14th 2016 -see Appendix A) be moved for consideration by the full Faculty Senate. This resolution focuses on ways to improve how course evaluations are conducted at the University of Vermont.
4. **Academic Calendar.** The committee continued conversations from previous efforts on the important topic of the Academic Calendar in response to SGA concerns. The SAC formally moved to direct the SGA to the office of the Registrar for any further considerations of this topic.
5. **Third Party Vendor Requirement Changes in UVM Alcohol Policy.** The SGA representatives to the Student Affairs Committee and Members of Greek Life have raised concerns with the wording of the new alcohol policy. Definitions of an 'event' and the threshold warranting a required licensed third party provider are raising practical conformance concerns for recognized UVM student organizations.
6. **Admissions Policy at UVM.** Beth Wisner and Stacey Kostell presented admissions policy at the University of Vermont showing internal and external trends for UVM. The committee focused much of the discussion on Vermonter enrollments and international programs. Further discussions on this topic are intended for 2017-18.
7. **SAS for students with identified disabilities on campus.** Sharon Mone and three students receiving supports shared their perspectives with the committee. This discussion grew out of a desire/concern on the parts of committee members to check in and review changes to the SAS programs on campus. An increase in usage of supports and capacity concerns were discussed by the committee.

Appendix A:



Student Affairs Committee
Passed Unanimously on April 14th 2016

WHEREAS the University of Vermont Faculty Senate passed a Motion on Online Evaluations on April 9th 2012 (FS2012-174) supporting the creation of an online course evaluation platform for UVM courses;

WHEREAS the University of Vermont Student Government Association passed a resolution supporting the revitalization and standardization of Academic Course Evaluations on November 18th 2014 (SGA2014-04);

WHEREAS course evaluations at the University of Vermont are departmentally designed, managed, and controlled, while the myUVM student portal is a centrally managed information portal used to disseminate curriculum, grade and advising information;

WHEREAS course evaluations conducted at the culmination of a course enable students to best reflect on the entire course experience, after all coursework has been completed and all instructor feedback received;

WHEREAS online course evaluations experience reduced student participation rates because of technical or procedural obstacles, or because the collection platforms are unfamiliar to respondents;

WHEREAS a BANNER/myUVM integrated course evaluation platform would allow for the seamless capture of respondent characteristics that would provide greater insight into how students receive courses offered at the University of Vermont;

BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Vermont Faculty Senate supports the implementation of a BANNER/myUVM integrated departmentally controlled course evaluation platform;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the anonymity of respondent submissions will be maintained in all presented results with specific attention to semantic security limiting multi-dimensional response parsing to only include sub-populations with a minimum number of five collected responses from that sub group;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that such a platform will make available the course questionnaire to students at the beginning of the final exam period for students to complete up until being able to view their final course grade, and that a prompt will ask students if they would like to opt out or in to completing the evaluation;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that if the student opts to complete the course evaluation, this will occur before the final grade is viewable ensuring that students must complete the course evaluation before their grade is viewable through the online portal during the two week period beginning the morning of the first scheduled final exam block;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that functional units or departments on campus are under no obligation to use this integrated platform for course evaluations, and that the determination to do so rests with the governance structures in place within each functional unit/department;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that this platform places full autonomy and control of the questions, responses and managed access to the responses solely with the functional units or departments on campus currently responsible for managing course evaluations;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that any implemented system would include data access and access attempt auditing to maintain verifiable integrity over the departmentally controlled responses to these course evaluations.