



FACULTY SENATE

Student Affairs Committee

Minutes

January 11, 2024

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Microsoft Teams

Present: Thomas Borchert (Faculty Senate President), Matthew Carlson (CAS), Terry Delaney (CALs), Evan Eyster (FS VP), Krisan Geary (CEMS), Steve Gove (GSB), Denise Hersey (LIB), Catherine Jones (SGA), Taylor Kocian (GSS), Nathan Kokinda (CNHS), Michael McDonald (RSENR), Erin Tsai (LCOM), Scott Van Keuren (CAS)

Absent: Jennifer Prue (CESS), Evan Siegel (SAG), Devika Singh (LCOM)

Guests: Tammy Bender, Veronika Carter, Jennifer Dickinson, Alicia Ebert, Whitney Northrop, Anna Smiles-Becker

Co-Chair Steve Gove called the meeting to order at 8:30 am via Microsoft Teams.

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of the November and December SAC meeting were approved as written.
2. **Chair Update.** Steve has served as co-chair by attending the Executive and Faculty Senate meetings this fall and not attended SAC meetings due to his teaching schedule. He will be at the SAC meetings this spring.
3. **Out of Class Expectation.** The committee discussed the most current draft of the below document.

Proposed addition to ‘Attendance Policy’ subsection of ‘Student Rights and Responsibilities’ section of the Undergraduate Catalog (p. 478-79)

There is clear value in academic activities, such as lectures, workshops, conferences, clinical rotations, service learning, field trips, or other educational opportunities that occur outside of the scheduled meeting pattern; however, faculty should be mindful of other student academic and non-academic responsibilities and ensure that students are advised of these requirements. In courses or programs of study that include an *expectation* or *requirement* for students to attend such activities outside of the standard meeting time (as defined in the SOC), and those activities are scored or applied to the final grade, the following apply:

- These expectations or requirements should be made clear to the student *prior* to registration through the Expanded Section Description (ESD) and then *detailed* in the course syllabus and/or other materials distributed prior to, or during, the first week of class;
- In cases where out-of-classroom activities conflict with other courses as outlined in the attendance policy above, the student’s regularly scheduled courses take precedent;

- In the case of off-campus events, the academic unit should comply with the “Reasonable Accommodation” guidelines in UVM’s [Accessibility policy](#) (V.7.14.1/V. 4.32.1). If the location is not accessible to all students, an alternative or makeup activity must be made available.

Motion: Terry moved to support the above addition to the attendance policy, it was seconded by Krisan.

Vote: 11 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. **The motion carried.**

4. **Doctors note and deans’ notifications management.** Guests Anna Smiles-Becker, Tammy Bender and Whitney Northrup provided the SAC with background health related absences and the policies around this. Some of the issues the committee discussed included.

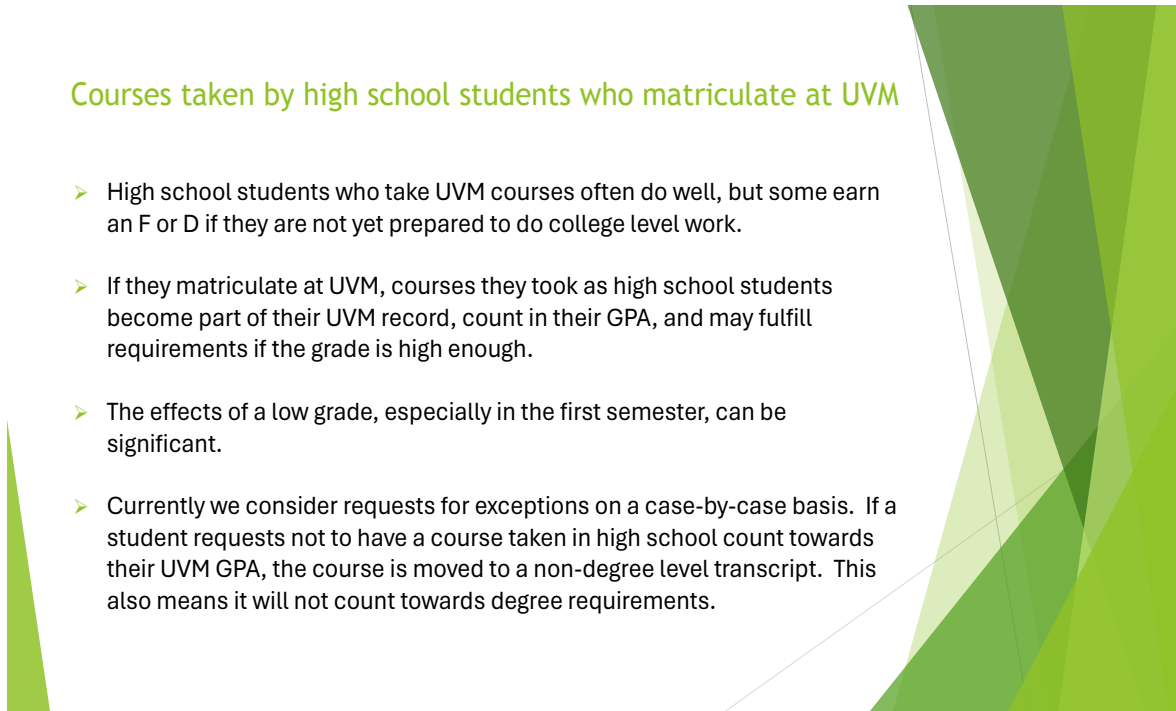
- Short term versus long term health issues.
- Different criteria between UVM resources, immediate health, and pediatricians and what they give doctors notes for and how this is not equitable among students.
- The different complexities of make-up exams for large classes, laboratories, and field work.
- How technology can be used to help with some of the issues of missing classes.
- The idea of a form that can be used for illness, an example from Duke <https://trinity.duke.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies/class-attendance-and-missed-work>.

J. will work with SSC and come back to the SAC with more information at a future meeting.

5. **Courses taken by high school students who matriculate at UVM, J. Dickinson and Veronika Carter**

Courses taken by high school students who matriculate at UVM

- High school students who take UVM courses often do well, but some earn an F or D if they are not yet prepared to do college level work.
- If they matriculate at UVM, courses they took as high school students become part of their UVM record, count in their GPA, and may fulfill requirements if the grade is high enough.
- The effects of a low grade, especially in the first semester, can be significant.
- Currently we consider requests for exceptions on a case-by-case basis. If a student requests not to have a course taken in high school count towards their UVM GPA, the course is moved to a non-degree level transcript. This also means it will not count towards degree requirements.



Grade	Summer 2017			
	All Students (395)		Matriculated Students (122)	
	Occurrences	No. of Students	Occurrences	No. of Students
A+	96	94	31	30
A	135	133	39	39
A-	63	62	15	14
B+	39	38	16	15
B	28	28	12	12
B-	18	18	4	4
C+	8	8	4	4
C	9	9	4	4
C-	2	2	0	0
D+	3	3	2	2
D	1	1	0	0
D-	5	5	1	1
F	10	10	1	1
I	0	0	0	0
S	1	1	0	0
P	0	0	0	0
AU	1	1	0	0
AF	0	0	0	0
XF	0	0	0	0
M	0	0	0	0

Grade	Summer 2018			
	All Students (318)		Matriculated Students (97)	
	Occurrences	No. of Students	Occurrences	No. of Students
A+	56	56	21	21
A	121	121	36	36
A-	51	51	18	18
B+	32	32	10	10
B	21	21	3	3
B-	16	16	6	6
C+	8	8	2	2
C	5	5	1	1
C-	4	4	0	0
D+	3	3	0	0
D	0	0	0	0
D-	2	2	1	1
F	8	8	1	1
I	0	0	0	0
S	0	0	0	0
P	0	0	0	0
AU	0	0	0	0
AF	2	2	0	0
XF	2	2	0	0
M	0	0	0	0

Grade	Summer 2019			
	All Students (369)		Matriculated Students (129)	
	Occurrences	No. of Students	Occurrences	No. of Students
A+	57	57	21	21
A	122	121	48	48
A-	85	85	27	27
B+	31	31	11	11
B	28	28	7	7
B-	11	11	6	6
C+	12	12	5	5
C	9	9	4	4
C-	5	5	0	0
D+	3	3	1	1
D	3	3	1	1
D-	2	2	1	1
F	10	10	3	3
I	0	0	0	0
S	0	0	0	0
P	0	0	0	0
AU	0	0	0	0
AF	0	0	0	0
XF	0	0	0	0
M	0	0	0	0

Grade	Summer 2020			
	All Students (367)		Matriculated Students (92)	
	Occurrences	No. of Students	Occurrences	No. of Students
A+	77	77	20	20
A	118	116	38	37
A-	66	66	16	16
B+	33	33	7	7
B	36	35	10	10
B-	22	21	5	4
C+	5	5	1	1
C	8	8	0	0
C-	6	6	1	1
D+	1	1	0	0
D	5	5	0	0
D-	1	1	0	0
F	6	6	1	1
I	0	0	0	0
S	0	0	0	0
P	0	0	0	0
AU	0	0	0	0
AF	0	0	0	0
XF	0	0	0	0
M	0	0	0	0

Grade	Summer 2021			
	All Students (339)		Matriculated Students (55)	
	Occurrences	No. of Students	Occurrences	No. of Students
A+	61	60	10	10
A	102	100	18	16
A-	56	56	12	12
B+	35	35	8	8
B	32	32	4	4
B-	17	17	2	2
C+	15	14	4	4
C	10	10	1	1
C-	7	7	0	0
D+	2	2	1	1
D	5	5	1	1
D-	0	0	0	0
F	11	11	0	0
I	0	0	0	0
S	0	0	0	0
P	0	0	0	0
AU	0	0	0	0
AF	0	0	0	0
XF	0	0	0	0
M	0	0	0	0

Grade	Summer 2023			
	All Students (297)		Matriculated Students (43)	
	Occurrences	No. of Students	Occurrences	No. of Students
A+	48	48	8	8
A	105	104	11	11
A-	51	51	9	9
B+	31	31	7	7
B	20	20	1	1
B-	19	19	6	6
C+	6	6	1	1
C	5	5	0	0
C-	2	2	0	0
D+	2	2	0	0
D	3	3	0	0
D-	1	1	0	0
F	11	11	1	1
I	1	1	0	0
S	0	0	0	0
P	0	0	0	0
AU	1	1	0	0
AF	0	0	0	0
XF	0	0	0	0
M	0	0	0	0

Policies at other New England Land Grant Institutions

▶ UNH and URI have similar policies:

- Grade counts in GPA. Students start off on probation if they earned a low grade. Could retake the course and not have the original grade count.

UConn and UMass offer students choice:

▶ UConn:

- Does not automatically count in GPA. After the first semester at UConn, student is given the option to have the non-degree grade count toward their GPA. Grade does not count toward degree if they don't choose to carry it over to UG level. Have built a portal option for the students to check off which they want to have counted.

▶ UMass:

- Does not automatically count in GPA. Students are given a choice: if they received a C- or lower, they must accept the credit and grade. If they received C- or better, they have the choice of credit and grade or just credit.

Policy option for UVM courses taken in HS	Pros	Cons
No change in current procedure. Continue to handle exceptions on a case-by-case basis.	Allows maximum flexibility for institution to consider individual student factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently no formal process for requests • Impact can be mixed – improved GPA but fewer credits/requirements fulfilled
Treat these as transfer credits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do not count in the student's GPA • appear as 'TR' on transcript • If grade below C, doesn't transfer/appear on transcript 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffers the impact of lower grades on GPA • Eliminates inequity of having UVM low grades count, but not low grades taken at other institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades of D through C- would not be able to count towards requirements as these credits would not transfer
Students may elect to count, or not count these on their record	Allows maximum choice for students as they enter UVM	Establishing process requires many institutional decisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would require a form • Which model -UConn and/or UMass? • Set deadline?

J. and Veronika will come back to the February SAC meeting to continue discussions around this topic.

6. **Old / New Business.** There was no old / new business at this meeting.

The SAC was adjourned at 10:00a.m. The next meeting of the SAC will be on February 1, 2024, at 8:30am on Microsoft Teams.