



FACULTY SENATE

Student Affairs Committee

Minutes

November 2, 2023

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Microsoft Teams

Present: Thomas Borchert (Faculty Senate President), Terry Delaney (CALs), Denise Hersey (LIB), Taylor Kocian (GSS), Nathan Kokinda (CNHS), Jennifer Prue (CESS), Erin Tsai (LCOM), Scott Van Keuren (CAS)

Absent: Krisan Geary (CEMS), Steve Gove* (GSB), Michael McDonald (RSENr), Pending (GSS), Catherine Jones (SGA), Kat Scollins** (CAS), Evan Siegel (SAG), Devika Singh (LCOM)

Guests: John Crock, Jennifer Dickinson, Alicia Ebert

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

- 1. Minutes.** The minutes of the October SAC meeting were approved as written.
- 2. Chair Update.** Taylor Kocian is the new GSS representative to the SAC. Erin Tsai will be the second representative from LCOM on the SAC. Welcome to both members.
- 3. Out of Class Expectation.** Scott presented the committee with a presentation on the challenges faced by students for activities that are scheduled outside of the standard course meeting hours. These out-of-class (OOC) expectations can be unfair if unequal access prevents equal participation in an OOC activity. For a copy of the presentation please e-mail the Faculty Senate Office at facsen@uvm.edu.

Concerns the committee had regarding out-of-class (OOC) expectations included:

- Issues like childcare, mental health, work / life / school balance, or access to personal transportation can make OOC activities not accessible to all students.
- Solutions can include providing alternative activities for students that may not be able to attend OOC activities.
- Finding individual transportation for students is not feasible based on the number and diversity of needs.
- Knowing about transportation needs at the start of the semester so there is more time to plan.
- Determine the difference between graduate and undergraduate and bring in Alicia to help determine how the graduate policy may be different.

- How grades are not generally lowered by these activities, however students miss extra credit opportunities.
- Students need to know if OOC activities are expected in a course, before registration through the Expanded Section Description, and then in the course syllabus provided before or in the 4 first week of classes.

The committee will invite Veronika and J., to the December meeting to help come up with a final draft that can be presented to the Faculty Senate. The current draft will be sent to the committee for consideration and review for the December meeting.

- 4. Graduate College student athlete attendance policy preview, John Crock & Alicia Ebert.** Several years ago, they worked very hard with the help of the SAC to get language into the catalog to protect student athletes and other academic competitors that are representing the university to participate in those activities without penalty due to missed attendance during those absences. It has gone very well and has reduced the conflicts between student athletes and faculty. It recently came up in the context of graduate students and it is unclear if this was meant to include them as it is not included in the graduate catalog. John would like to ask the SAC for help into changing this. The Dean of the Graduate School would like anything added to the graduate catalog to go before the Graduate Executive Committee and they plan on discussing this issue at their meeting today.

Thomas Borchert moved that the undergraduate attendance policy applies to graduate students and forward the whole undergraduate attendance policy to the graduate college for consideration the motion was seconded by Denise Hersey.

Approve: 8

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

The motion carried.

Thomas also suggested a conversation between the Dean of the Graduate College, J., Alicia, and Faculty Senate President to help better understand the governance piece.

5. Old / New Business.

- The committee would like to invite Pablo Bose to talk about syllabi and general education. The Faculty Senate office will invite him to the December meeting as he is on sabbatical for the spring semester.
- Brightspace and out of pocket expenses for students.
- Student housing, inviting Charles to a future meeting.
- Update on the external review of residential life.
- Wi-Fi on campus. Thomas will ask Helen Reed, the chair of the ERTC to look at this issue.

*Teaching conflict

**Semester replacement for Matthew Carlson.

The SAC was adjourned at 9:50a.m. The next meeting of the SAC will be on December 7, 2023, at 8:30am on Microsoft Teams.

