

FS2012-174

FACULTY SENATE

- Faculty Senate Action (Notification – acknowledgement required)
- Faculty Senate Action (Presidential Approval required)
- Curricular Action (Presidential Approval required)

Transmitted By: Julie Roberts, Faculty Senate President

Presidential Action Requested By: May 10, 2012

RE: At its April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Faculty Senate approved a proposal to move to online course evaluations for a probationary period.

Recommendation: Approve Acknowledged \_\_\_\_\_

Jane Knodell 04.18.12

Provost & Sr. Vice President Jane Knodell (Date)

Recommendation: Acknowledged

Fran Bazluka 4/18/12

General Counsel, Fran Bazluka (Date)

Presidential Action:  Approved  Not Approved

Decision delayed until (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

[Signature] 4/20/12

Interim President John Bramley (Date)

Returned to Senate President, with a copy to the Sr. Vice President/Provost on 4/23/12

Disposition: Returned to Faculty Sen

**Motion on Online Evaluations, April 9, 2012**

Whereas online student course evaluations will result in increased efficiency in processing and decreased use of paper; and

The Student Government Association has requested a move from paper to online evaluations for these same environmental and efficiency reasons:

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate will instruct the ad hoc senate committee on online evaluations to choose a vendor and move from paper to online evaluations. The evaluation process will be assessed after two years to allow for modification or discontinuation as needed.

**Further, be it resolved that these data would be used in the same ways that they are currently used**, including performance evaluations and RPT processes. Access to these data would be limited in the same ways it is limited at present – accessible only to the appropriate parties at program, department and college levels, and only at the appropriate times as defined in performance evaluation and RPT guidelines.

Finally, be it resolved that the response rate as well as the results of student teaching evaluations should be included in the assessments of faculty. All parties involved in RPT assessments are reminded that low response rates reduce and in some cases nullify the validity of these evaluations. This reminder should be given particular importance by all relevant parties during the transitional time from paper to online evaluations.



The UNIVERSITY of VERMONT

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION

Senate Resolution No.: 4

Date Submitted: 11/18/2014

Date Introduced: 11/18/2014

Introduced By: Katie Hickey, Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

Date Action Taken: 11/18/2014

Sponsored: [Signature of Katie Hickey]

Certified: [Signature of James Maulucci] Speaker of the Senate Maulucci

Signed: [Signature] President AL-Namee

Resolution Supporting the Revitalization and Standardization of Academic Course Evaluations

WHEREAS, the University of Vermont's mission statement recognizes the need "to create, evaluate, share, and apply knowledge and to prepare students,"

WHEREAS, the current state of academic course evaluations is difficult to interpret and inconsistent across the university,

WHEREAS, the inconsistency does not provide the basis to evaluate all courses effectively, or equally,

WHEREAS, the current system does not constructively communicate student feedback to instructors,

WHEREAS, a more standardized, comprehensive, and constructive system of course evaluations will improve the educational rigor and scholastic experience of courses,

WHEREAS, the university may look to its peer universities and their systems of course evaluation to inform its own system,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Government Association supports further conversation and collaboration with students and faculty regarding the revitalization and standardization of academic course evaluations.





Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

WHEREAS the University of Vermont Faculty Senate passed a Motion on Online Evaluations on April 9<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION

Senate Resolution No.: R. F. 2

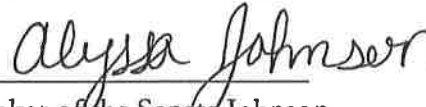
Date Submitted: 05/03/2016

Date Introduced: 04/26/2016

Introduced By: Chair David Brandt,  
Academic Affairs Committee

Date Action Taken: 05/03/2016

Sponsored:   
Chair Brandt, Academic Affairs

Certified:   
Speaker of the Senate Johnson

Signed:   
President Maulucci

**Resolution Supporting the Joint Resolution of the Educational Research and Technologies Committee and the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate for a Departmentally Controlled Banner/myUVM Integrated Course Evaluation Platform Option**

WHEREAS, the University of Vermont Student Government Association (SGA) has expressed continued concerns about the state of course evaluations in recent years,

WHEREAS, the SGA passed a resolution “supporting the revitalization and standardization of academic course evaluations”<sup>1</sup> on November 18, 2014,

WHEREAS, the SGA published a public service announcement titled “Why do course evaluations matter?” on April 21, 2015,

WHEREAS, the Educational Research and Technologies Committee and the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate proposed a joint resolution supporting the optional “implementation of a BANNER/myUVM integrated departmentally controlled course evaluation platform”<sup>2</sup> on February 29, 2016,

<sup>1</sup> Student Government Association S.Res. 4 in 2014, “Resolution Supporting the Revitalization and Standardization of Academic Course Evaluations,”  
<http://www.uvm.edu/sga/documents/Passed%20Bills/Resolution%20Supporting%20the%20Revitalization%20and%20Standardization%20of%20Academic%20Course%20Evaluations%20.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Faculty Senate S.J.Res in 2016, “Resolution Supporting the Implementation of a BANNER/myUVM integrated Departmentally Controlled Course Evaluation Platform.”





*The*  
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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Vermont Student Government Association recognizes that this proposal would increase course evaluation participation rates, allow students more time to fill out course evaluations, provide academic units with richer course evaluation data, and preserve departmental autonomy over the course evaluation process,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, for the aforementioned reasons, the Student Government Association supports the Joint Resolution of the Educational Research and Technologies Committee and the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate.

