



FACULTY SENATE

Student Affairs Committee

Minutes

427a Waterman

January 19, 2017

- Present** Kenneth Allen (CNHS), David Brandt (SGA), Hillary Brown (GSS), Thomas Chittenden (GSB), Dan DeSanto (LIB), Jane Molofsky (CAL), Omar Oyarzabal (EXT), Jennifer Prue (CESS), Martin Thaler (CAS), William L (CEMS)
- Absent** Zail Berry (COM), Jeffrey Hughes\* (RSNER), Don Loeb (CAS), Cathy Paris (FS President), Kristen Pierce (COM)
- Guests** Brian Reed, Annie Stevens

The Co-Chair Jennifer Prue called the meeting to order at 8:33 in Waterman 427a.

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of December 8, 2016 were approved as written.

2. **Academic Integrity Policy Discussion Update.**

The committee discussed the newest version of the Academic Integrity Policy. The SAC will invite Lucy Singer to an upcoming meeting to continue to work on revising this policy.

The subcommittee will continue to work on and present again at a future SAC meeting. The timeline for completion is targeted as May 2017.

3. **myUVM Integrated Course Evaluation Notion.**

# Departmentally Controlled myUVM Portal Integrated Course Evaluation Platform

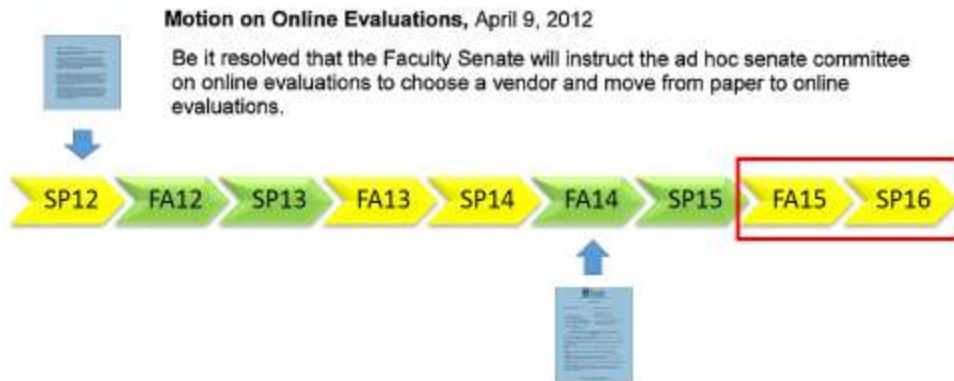
Student Affairs Committee  
Spring 2016



## Agenda

- Brief history of this discussion
- What this notion addresses and what it doesn't
- What online course evaluations could look like
- Why this would be of value
- Feedback on notion

# Timeline



## Resolution Supporting the Revitalization and Standardization of Academic Course Evaluations

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.

3

# Issues with Course Evaluations



*Category 1. Issues with how course evaluations are used.*

- **Access to Responses** – Who gets to see them?
- **Purpose** – What are the Responses Used for?
- **Bias** – From the Student, Against the Professor and Other Influences?
- **Questions** – Who decides what questions to ask?

*Category 2. Issues with the way course evaluations are conducted.*

- **When** – Last Day of Classes or Last 4 weeks of Semester?
- **Format** - Paper or online?
- **Required or Optional** - Opt in or opt out?
- **Quality Assurance** – Responses from Students who took that course?
- **Dimensional Data Richness** – What do we know about the respondent?

4

# Current Grade Portal Process



Final Grades - The University of Vermont

Student Information for Austin C. McPherson  
 SUID: 20150

Current Program: Bachelor of Arts  
 Level: Undergraduate  
 Program: Arts & Sciences BA  
 Admit Term: Fall 2012  
 Catalog Term: Fall 2012  
 College: College of Arts & Sciences  
 Major: Psychology  
 Minor: Public Communication  
 Academic Standing: Public Communication

Undergraduate Course Work

CRN	Subject	Course	Sec	Course Title	Final Grade	Attempted	Earned	GPA Hours	Quality Points
14458	CDAE	295	C	Cabot Mining Chal Part II	Launch Evaluation	3.00	-	-	-
14343	ENGS	050	F	Expository Writing	A	3.00	4.00	3.00	12.00
10208	GEOL	001	A	Earth System Science	No Grade Posted Yet	4.00	-	-	-
13798	HST	096	A	D1: North Amer Indians	Launch Evaluation	3.00	-	-	-
13193	PSYC	152	A	Abnormal Psychology	No Grade Posted Yet	3.00	-	-	-

Undergraduate Summary

	Attempted	Earned	GPA Hours	Quality Points	GPA
Semester*	16.00	6.00	6.00	21.00	3.50
Cumulative*	77.00	77.00	77.00	269.02	3.49
Transfer*	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Overall*	77.00	90.00	77.00	269.02	3.49

# Integrated Course Evaluation Platform in the myUVM Portal



Starting the morning of the first day of Finals Week,  
 Course Evaluation Links would be available

Course Grade Survey Gateway Page

CRN	Subject	Course	Sec	Course Title	Final Grade	Attempted	Earned	GPA Hours	Quality Points
14458	CDAE	295	C	Cabot Mining Chal Part II	Launch Evaluation	3.00	-	-	-
14343	ENGS	050	F	Expository Writing	A	3.00	4.00	3.00	12.00
10208	GEOL	001	A	Earth System Science	No Grade Posted Yet	4.00	-	-	-
13798	HST	096	A	D1: North Amer Indians	Launch Evaluation	3.00	-	-	-
13193	PSYC	152	A	Abnormal Psychology	No Grade Posted Yet	3.00	-	-	-

	Attempted	Earned	GPA Hours	Quality Points	GPA
Semester*	16.00	6.00	6.00	21.00	3.50
Cumulative*	77.00	77.00	77.00	269.02	3.49
Transfer*	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Overall*	77.00	90.00	77.00	269.02	3.49

\*These numbers do NOT include grades for courses who haven't been posted yet or who the course survey has not yet been completed to release the grade for viewing.

Student Grade will NOT be Viewable until the course  
 evaluation prompt is Addressed (Opt In required)

# Launch Evaluation



Would you like to complete a course evaluation for "Earth System Science – Section A (GEOL 001)"?

[Complete Course Evaluation](#) → [Send Email to Instructors about a Course Evaluation](#)

**Course Survey for Earth System Science – Section A (GEOL 001).**

To view your posted final grade for this course before the semester reporting period finishes, please answer the questions below about your experience in this class.

Your responses will be anonymized and. Please take a moment to answer the questions or if you'd prefer not to, you may opt out of this survey [here](#).

- The course was informative, relevant and stimulated interest in the subject matter.
  - Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree
- The instructor of this course presented the material in a clear, logical and organized manner.
  - Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree
- The instructor of this course clearly specified student responsibilities.
  - Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree
- The best aspects of this course are:
- This course could be improved by:

7

## Why Integrate?



- Timing
- Integration would permit the capture of Student Perspective when the course is done but before they see their grade

### December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Finals Week is highlighted in yellow and outlined in green, covering the period from Monday, December 14th to Friday, December 18th.

# Why Integrate?

- Data Richness
  - Class Year
  - Major
  - Course Performance (High Mark vs. Low Mark)
  - ...



9

## Faculty View (After 2 Week Capture Period)

Course Survey Responses				
Term	Fall 2016	Course	ESAD 101	
Instructor	Thomas Cliftwood	Section	A	
Responses	57 out of 62			
E: Strongly Disagree - 2 - 2 - 3 - 3 - 4 - 4 - 5: Strongly Agree		Q1	Q2	Q3
All Responses	Mean	3.89	3.86	3.77
	Median - Interpolated	4.02	4.03	3.92
	Median - Standard	4.08	4.06	4.00
	Std. Dev.	1.01	1.06	1.09
	Min / Max	2.0 / 5.0	3.0 / 5.0	3.0 / 5.0
Class (Mean Scores)	First Year			
	Sophomore	3.25	3.21	3.06
	Junior	3.89	3.87	3.80
	Senior	4.25	4.21	4.23
Performance (Mean Scores)	High (A+, A, A-, B+, B or B-)	4.12	4.30	3.87
	Low (C+ or lower)	3.66	3.79	3.35
Major (Mean Scores - Only Available if More than 5 Responses from that Major)	ESAD	4.44	4.62	4.51
	EDMS	3.30	3.10	2.90
	PSCH	5.30	5.22	5.15
	CDME	4.25	4.21	4.11
	CHSM	2.19	2.54	2.44

**The best aspects of this course are:**

- The lectures and in-class work.
- The team-based modules were a help for multiple choice on the exams.
- Loved the assignments and take-home portions of the exams.
- Lectures were fantastic and really "made" the course.

**This course could be improved by:**

- Less quizzes and 2,3 (4?) part exams.
- Access was a difficult topic and did not seem useful to me.
- Fewer in-class quizzes, greater amounts of assignments applicable to the material learned in class.
- Including a project.

10

## Online Platforms in Use Today



11

## Why Integrate?

- Participation Rate
  - Trusted Platform
  - Security
  - Qualified Responses



## Additional Guidelines

- Students would not be able to see their final grade via the myUVM online grade portal until they are prompted with their survey during the 2 week period starting the first day of Exams
- Response dimensional parsing would require at least 5 respondents of that 'type'
- The collection method/platform would categorize collected submissions into two grade 'buckets' **if and only if** enough grade disparity exists to retain anonymity in the collected results:
  - High Performing Students who earned an A+, A, A-, B+, B or B-
  - Low Performing Students who earned a C+ or lower
- This platform is entirely optional for each Department to consider migrating towards
- Questions would be determined be Departmentally Determined
- Responses would be entirely Departmentally controlled

13

## Why Do This?

- **Timing of Evaluations**
  - During Finals Week is when students have a more complete perspective on the course and have diminishing pressures.
- **Completion Rates**
  - Removes technical and procedural hurdles to get online evaluations in front of students via a trusted platform.
- **Multi-Dimensional Data**
  - Capture of student data (e.g. ACE score, pre-reqs @ UVM, Grade 'bucket'...) will give a richer view of the student perspective
- **Quality Assurance & Security**
  - Evaluations will be from Students who took the class.
    - (Not random submissions like what RateMyProfessor Permits)
  - Rich Sophisticated Controlled Platform will ensure semantic security is not compromised by never revealing granular demographic data with responses.

14





## Why Do This?

“Instilling an institutional commitment to efficiency and effectiveness that optimizes the use of facilities, technology, assets, and shared services”

UVM Vision, Mission and Goals

<http://www.uvm.edu/president/?Page=mission.html>

15

Thomas moved that the resolution, myUVM Integrated Course Evaluation go to the Faculty Senate for full senate approval. Jennifer Prue seconded the motion.

Approved      9                      Opposed      0                      Abstain      0

Thomas and Jennifer will continue to promote this resolution among faculty and administration on campus. Thomas and Jennifer will present the resolution at an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting. If any SAC members are interested in also presenting e-mail Jennifer Prue.

#### **4. Other Business.**

**A. Operational Policy on Administrative Assigned Failing Grade (Brian Reed)**



TO: Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate; Deans; Associate Deans; Faculty  
FROM: Brian Reed, Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning  
RE: Operational Policy on Administratively Assigned Failing Grades  
CC: David Rosowsky, Provost and Senior Vice President; Kerry Castano, Assistant Provost; Cathy Paris, President, UVM Faculty Senate; Veronika Carter, Interim Registrar; Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate  
DATE: January 18, 2017

---

**Background:** Each year, ~700 UVM<sup>1</sup> students are administratively assigned 'F' when their professor does not post a grade for them by the posting deadline (e.g. noon on the Tuesday after finals week). Administratively assigned F's are indiscernible from traditional F's, so there is no indication to the student, advisor or others that the grade was assigned as a technical default rather than an earned failing mark. This practice does not accurately record a student's status for a course and it causes undue stress. Students are being unduly penalized for their professors' procedural error of missing a grade posting deadline.

The Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate conducted research on 20 peer and aspirant universities and found that none of them had a policy similar to UVM's. All of them used special designations to distinguish administrative Fs from earned F's. Thus, it appears that other institutions have found better ways of handling administratively assigned grades.

**Operational Policy effective for AY 2017-2018:** To address this problem, missing grades at the time of the posting deadline will be assigned a grade of 'AF' to represent an Administrative F. This grade will have all of the same computational and curricular consequences as an 'F' but will be discernable to all parties as an administratively assigned grade. The same strategy will be used to designate administratively assigned grades of UP and NP. Therefore, three new grades will be created to accurately record that a failing grade was assigned administratively:

- AF – Administrative F
- AUP – Administrative Unsatisfactory Progress
- ANP – Administrative No Pass

As for grades of 'F', 'UP' and 'NP', zero quality points assigned to grades of 'AF', 'AUP' and 'ANP'.

---

This operational policy was developed by the Provost's Office in collaboration with the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Senate leadership, the Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate (pending), and the Registrar's Office.

---

<sup>1</sup> Data extrapolated from recorded Admin Fs during the May of 2016 by Veronika Carter, Acting UVM Registrar. Current BANNER/SIS system does not easily report historically assigned Admin F's; reports limited to show only persistently applied Admin F's.

Brian Reed thanked the committee for their hard work on this issue. The committee agrees this policy is better than the previous however, it could be more mindful of the student experience.

5. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.

\*Sabbatical

**Next meeting:**

February 9, 2017

2/9/2017
3/9/2017
4/13/2017
5/11/2017