Student Affairs Committee
Minutes

427a Waterman
October 12, 2017

Present   Kenneth Allen (CNHS), Jamie Benson (SGA), Thomas Chittenden (GSB), Dan DeSanto (LIB), Mia Hockett (LCOM), Karla Karstens (CEMS), Stephen Pinauro (CALS), Cathy Paris (FS President), Martin Thaler (CAS), Nancy Welch (CAS)

Absent   Zail Berry (COM), Trish O'Kane (RSENR), Omar Oyarzabal (EXT), Jennifer Prue (CESS)

Guests   Laura Engelken, Brian Reed, Annie Stevens

Co-Chair Thomas Chittenden called the meeting to order at 8:30 in Waterman 427a.

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of October 12, 2017 were approved as written.

2. **myUVM Integrated Departmentally Controlled Online Course Evaluation Platform – Faculty Senate Approved Resolution ReCap and Next Steps.**

    The Faculty Senate voted on the SAC originated resolution (Appendix A) at the October 23rd meeting. The Resolution passed with an 80 % approval rate. 41 senators voted yes, 8 voted no and 2 abstained.

    Next steps.
    1. Thomas and Jennifer go to council of deans with a presentation and feedback
    2. Thomas and Jennifer go to departments and chairs to determine who would use this software.

3. **Global Gateways Program Discussion.** Thomas presented the committee with a one page discussion document- Appendix B. This version incorporated recommendations from Gayle Nunley.

    The UVM GGP will be added to the December meeting for further discussion. The Faculty Senate Office will send an invitation for Gayle to attend the meeting.

4. **Interfaith Holiday Listing, UVM Academic Calendar and Religious Inclusiveness Topics in Higher Education – Laura Engelken**

Questions posed during the discussion:
- How are religious accommodation options presented to students?
- What level of responsibility falls on the students?
- Students are often sacrificing religious obligations so that they don't have to miss class or stand out.
- Having religious accommodations on syllabi is great but not always effective.
- Encourage students advocating for themselves
- Making it best practice to add to syllabus
- Use as many avenues to get information to students
    - Faculty
    - Student Life
    - Portal
    - Looking into the Syracuse model. What information do we want to capture? Is technology the solution on this topic?

The committee discussed a reporting & tracking module for students to submit religious holidays that occur during the semester creating class conflicts similar to what Syracuse University has developed. After some discussion, the committee didn't see a driving justification to automate a process that is currently working at UVM and was hesitant to 'over-engineer' a solution. The committee expressed interest to hear from Laura anytime in the future if there are ways to help integrate 'religious ergonomics' into UVM's intuitional practices.

5. **Old Business.** Martin, Jaime and Thomas will set up a meeting to meet with Jim Barr before he is a guest in 2018. Jaime has some data he will share with the committee on bike safety in the Burlington area.

6. **New Business.** There was no new business at this time.

The SAC meeting adjourned at 10:11am

The next meeting of the SAC is scheduled for Dec 7th 2017 in 427a Waterman.

Appendix A – Senate Passed Resolution on Integrated Course Evaluations

Resolution
Departmentally Controlled *myUVM* Portal Integrated Online Course Evaluation Platform

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; and

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); and

WHEREAS the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, the Educational Research & Technologies Committee of the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association passed additional resolutions calling for an integrated course evaluation system to have the following operational and policy parameters:

- The anonymity of respondent submissions should 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;
- Such a platform would make available the course questionnaire to students to complete up until being able to view their final course grade, and that a prompt would ask students if they would like to opt out or in to completing the evaluation;
- If the student opts to complete the course evaluation, this would only occur before the final grade is viewable ensuring that students must complete the course evaluation before their grade is viewable through the online portal;
- Functional units or departments on campus would not be under any 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;
- This platform would place 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;
- Any implemented system would include data access and access attempt auditing to maintain verifiable integrity over the departmentally controlled responses to these course evaluations.

THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED that

- The University of Vermont Faculty Senate supports the implementation of a myUVM-integrated departmentally controlled course evaluation platform.; and
- The University of Vermont should charge a joint Administration/Faculty Senate committee to develop a Request For Information (RFI) to solicit vendor proposals on a course evaluation platform to meet the desired characteristics outlined above.

Appendix B – Global Gateways Program Adjustments Discussion Document.

UVM Global Gateways Program (GGP) Adjustments

Student Affairs Committee, University of Vermont Faculty Senate
Last Modified 11/2/2017

Draft Authored by Thomas I. Chittenden.

Student Affairs Committee Members: Martin Thaler, Stephen Pintauro, Thomas Chittenden, Jennifer Prue, William Louisos / Karla Karstens, Omar Oyarzabal, Dan DeSanto, Zail Berry, Mia Hockett, Kenneth Allen, Jamie Benson, Carly Bidner

Issue: International Students admitted to the University of Vermont through the Global Gateways Program are avoiding UVM direct admission policy requiring a minimum score of a 90[1] on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Students with below standard language confidence create resource and philosophical implications demanding institutional attention while creating student experiences incapable of achieving the Mission of the University of Vermont[2] to 'create, evaluate, share, and apply knowledge'.

Proposal: From discussions with cross campus constituencies including representatives from the Global Gateway Program, the following adjustments have been identified for consideration:

1. **Post GGP / Pre-Matriculation AccuPlacer Proctored Assessment for all 3-semester GGP students taken within one month prior to being considered for UVM admission.**
   Rationale: Students in this '3 Semester' track earned a TOEFL score below 65[3] which is below the direct admission standard of 90 for the University. To ensure these GGP students are successful in their UVM curriculum, a proctored assessment evaluating their readiness for the UVM curriculum will better inform the admissions process for the student and the university.

2. **January Term ESOL Optional Programming for GGP students.**
   Rationale: International students are a larger segment of the student population who take advantage of break/holiday housing on campus. Additional/Optional English as a Second Language programming over the January term could channel determined students towards structured experiences towards strengthening their English language confidence.

3. **Constitute a Faculty Advisory Committee for the Global Gateways Program.**
   Rationale: Similar to other programs on campus (Athletics, Career Services, Center for Academic Success…), a panel of faculty meeting 2-4 times each academic year to review, assess and guide the direction of the GGP would channel faculty concerns to have influence over the program direction going forward.

The charge of the Student Affairs Committee[4] of the Faculty Senate states that the SAC "shall include among its duties in-depth and ongoing review of University admissions …. This committee shall establish policy in matters related to general admissions standards and prerequisites, as referred to in Section 1.1d, and shall review, recommend and participate in formulation of admissions procedures."

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[1] https://www.uvm.edu/admissions/undergraduate/apply/international_applicants
[2] http://www.uvm.edu/president/?Page=mission.html.
To create, evaluate, share, and apply knowledge and to prepare students to be accountable leaders who will bring to their work dedication to the global community, a grasp of complexity, effective problem-solving and communication skills, and an enduring commitment to learning and ethical conduct.
[3] http://globalgateway.uvm.edu/degree-pathway/entry-requirements
[4] http://www.uvm.edu/faculty_senate/student_affairs_committee