

Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

Annual Report AY 25-26

Co-Chairs: Jennifer Prue-CESS, Scott Van Keuren-CAS

Committee Members:

Matthew Carlson-CAS

Krisan Geary-CEMS

Margaret Aitken-CNHS

Tom Noordeweir-GSB

Molly Rogers-LIB

Abigail Adler-LCOM

Erin Tsai-LCOM

Michael McDonald-RENSER

Cesar Camacho-SGA

Lizah Makombore-GSS

The FS-SAC committee had a busy year. There were a variety of check-in visits from: Enrollment Management, Student Accessibility Services, Safety-Compliance.

The Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee (SAC) discussed changes to the attendance policy, monitored issues related to student housing, enrollment, cannabis use, and provided feedback on revisions to the undergraduate re-entry process. The committee also participated in early discussions of the proposed student support hub (OSS or “Ask UVM”); two SAC members were subsequently appointed to the OSS development committees. The SAC also updated operating procedures at the October meeting. Jennifer Prue (CESS) chaired the committee during the fall semester; Scott Van Keuren (CAS) joined as co-chair in the spring semester.

Additionally, the FS-SAC addressed concerns regarding Attendance Policies by forwarding a resolution for vote (and passage by the full FS).

Regarding Student Athletes

The SAC discussed revisions to both the general undergraduate attendance policy and the attendance policy that specifically applies to intercollegiate and academic competitions. The committee heard concerns from Angela Erdmann (Director of the Center for Student Success, Grossman School of Business), Sarah Helmer (Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, CAS), and John Crock (Faculty Athletic Representative), each addressing issues facing

student athletes and the broader student body. The committee revised the language of both policies, which were then presented at a Faculty Senate meeting. SAC representatives received copious feedback from senators and other faculty across several units. A revised version of the policy that applies specifically to intercollegiate and academic competitions was then resubmitted to the senate for consideration and vote; the resolution passed.

46 approve, 6 oppose and 10 abstain

Regarding the Student Population writ large

PROPOSED CHANGES: General Attendance Policy

CURRENT POLICY: Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes. With the exceptions outlined below, the instructor has the final authority to excuse absences. It is the responsibility of the instructor to inform students of their policy for handling absences and tardiness, and the consequences that may be imposed. Notification should be done both verbally and in writing at the beginning of each semester.

It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor regarding the reason for absence or tardiness from class, and to discuss this with the instructor in advance whenever possible. The instructor has the right to require documentation in support of the student's request for an absence from class and to determine the appropriate response (e.g., excused absence, deadline extension, substituted work). If an out-of-class exam or other activity (e.g., field trip, campus speaker or event, workshop) conflicts with a regularly scheduled class, the regularly scheduled class has priority. Any conflicts between student and instructor regarding this policy may be presented for resolution to the course department chair or college dean's office.

When a student is unable to attend classes for reasons of health, bereavement, or required legal appearances (e.g., jury duty, citizenship hearing), the student should contact their academic dean's office regarding support. An instructor may request through the appropriate dean's office documentation to support a student's request for an excused absence.

PROPOSED NEW POLICY (first two paragraphs of the above stay the same):

When a student is unable to attend classes for reasons of health, bereavement, or required legal appearances (e.g., jury duty, citizenship hearing), the student should contact their academic dean's office regarding support. An instructor may request through the appropriate dean's office documentation to support a student's request for an excused absence.

Faculty are encouraged to support students as best they can through unforeseen circumstances. At the very least, faculty must allow an excused absence when a student is unable to attend classes for reasons of hospitalization, family emergency, required

National Guard/military service, or required legal appearances (e.g., jury duty, citizenship hearing), as notified by the student's Dean's Office. If the excused absence period will exceed 15 percent of course contact hours¹, faculty are not required to provide accommodations to make up the work. In the case of excused absences, the instructor should provide reasonable assistance to the student to make up missed work; students must be allowed the opportunity to make up or do work for equivalent credit (exam, lab, etc.). Class policies which allow students to drop the lowest single grade(s) in a MAJOR grade category do not alone constitute reasonable assistance in making up missed work.

15 percent is based on two weeks of a standard 14-week class

Scott motioned to approve above Attendance Policy, Steven seconded the motion.

Approve: 11 Oppose: 0 Abstention: 1

The above Attendance Policy was approved and will be sent to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to be voted on at the May 4th senate meeting.

Undergraduate re-entry policy

Registrar Veronika Carter and Associate Registrar Jennifer Fath brought proposed changes to the re-entry application, which are intended to standardize criteria across schools and colleges. The SAC provided feedback; the Registrar will send a final version to the SAC co-chairs and Faculty Senate President before implementation.

Calendar Discussion

Veronika Carter gave the committee an overview of how the calendar is determined. The main topic discussed was the placement of the Spring Break within the Spring semester. The current pattern was voted on in the Faculty Senate, the resolution stated:

Be it also resolved, that academic calendars starting in the 2016-17 academic year will have spring break occur the week after town meeting day.

Other concerns the committee had included:

- Length of the fall and spring semester
- Fall recess

Veronika would like two SAC members to serve on a committee that will take a deeper look at the calendar. The committee would kick off in May, do a lot of planning work in the summer and start much of the work in the fall. If you are interested in doing this, please e-mail Veronika directly.