

# Course Evaluation Resolution Faculty Senate Report Out and Update

Student Affairs Committee  
Fall 2018



*The*  
**UNIVERSITY**  
*of* **VERMONT**

# Update

*Since the Faculty Senate passed the resolution on 10/23/17...*

- Additional presentations made across campus
  - CAS Directors & Chairs
  - Deans Council
  - Various Departments..
- Provost has charged a Request for Proposal Committee
- Minor language changes to the “Whereas” clauses desired

# Course Evaluation Software Work Group Appointed Members



- Penny Bishop, Associate Dean for Innovation and Technology, College of Education and Social Services;
- Jamie Benson, Chair, Academic Affairs Committee, Student Government Association;
- Michael Cannizzaro, Associate Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders;
- Thomas Chittenden, Co-Chair, Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee;
- Andrew Hendrickson, Information Technology Administrator, College of Arts and Sciences;
- Rachel Seremeth, Director, Enterprise Application Services;
- Regina Toolin, Chair, Faculty Senate Educational and Research Technologies Committee;
- Rachel Grace Trowbridge, Associate Registrar.

# Resolution as passed

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; and

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); 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.

THEREFORE 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.

## Approved Language:

*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.*~~

## Revised Language:

*Governance and decision making over course evaluation platform use would continue to rest with the governance structures in place within each college, school, or department;*

*Control over course evaluation response data would continue to rest with department chairs and deans, as it does at present;*

Approved  
Language:

Revised  
Language:

**ADD:**

WHEREAS there is documented widespread support across the University of Vermont from faculty, associate deans, and deans for the development of a sophisticated, integrated, and online course evaluation platform to improve the quality, completeness, and dimensional depth of collected responses.

# Reasons for Language Changes

- Deemed Now Ready for a ‘Request for Proposal’ instead of the more preliminary ‘Request for Information’
- The passage with the term Audit had unnecessary negative and legal connotations.
- Governance varies across units; new language is more generalized and thus interoperable.