



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Monday, February 24, 2020
Memorial Lounge 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

Senators in Attendance: 66

Absent: Senators Weinstein (Family Medicine), Mieder (German & Russian), Sherriff (Libraries Rep 2), Yang (Mathematics & Statistics Rep 2), Sidiropoulos (Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Rep 2), Saia (Pediatrics Rep 1), Zakaras (Political Science), Cepeda-Benito (Psychological Science), Comerford (Social Work), Ahern (Surgery Rep 1)

1. **Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks** – Thomas Chittenden's opening remarks included:

- 2020-21 Calendar has been set. Faculty Senate meeting pattern will remain on Monday. The first meeting will be held on August 24th, and will be a kick-off meeting to include a short orientation, and an introduction to the upcoming work of the Senate committees. The January & February meetings will combine into a February 1st meeting.
- Congratulations to all members of the UVM community being honored at the annual Publications and Creative Works Reception on Thursday, February 27th. This event is sponsored jointly by the Faculty Senate and the Office of the Provost
- The Blackboard Jungle Symposium 13: Reimagining an Inclusive Community is scheduled for March 25th – 27th. Registration is available on the UVM website.

2. **Consent Agenda**

The following items were voted en bloc as a consent agenda:

- a) Minutes of the 1/27/20 Faculty Senate Meeting
Curricular Affairs
- b) Name change: MS in Animal Science, CALS
- c) Report Out: New Concentration for ENSC Major, CAS/CALS/RSENR

Motion: To approve the consent agenda as presented.

Vote: 95% approve, 0% oppose, 5% abstain. The motion carried.

3. **Call for Nominations**

Senate secretary, Laurie Eddy, reported that it is election season for the Faculty Senate. Email notices regarding open seats for senators and committee members have been sent to

deans and chairs. The 2020-2021 meeting schedules were included in the notices sent to the deans and chairs. Election Results should be reported to the Senate office by May 1st. Emails were also sent to faculty with the call for nominations for three Senate leadership positions:

- Senate President-Elect, and
- two (2) at-large members to the Executive Council.

Nominations for these leadership positions will be accepted via webform on the Senate webpage, or from the floor of the Faculty Senate through the March 23, 2020 Senate meeting.

Elections for Senate President-Elect and the two members at-large to the Executive Council will be held by electronic ballot, distributed via email to all eligible faculty in April. Results will be announced at the April meeting.

4. **Student Affairs Committee (SAC) Resolution: To Revise the University Policy on Repeated Courses** – Co-chairs, Kenneth Allen and Jennifer Prue presented the following resolution from the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate:

[Resolution to Revise the University Policy on Repeated Courses](#)

[Passed unanimously by Student Affairs Committee on 2/6/20](#)

The members of the UVM Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee (SAC) recommend revisions to the University Policy on Repeated Courses.

WHEREAS we heard from students, faculty, staff and administrators who advocated for a review of the current policy;

WHEREAS the current policy fails to reflect that once a course has been repeated student knowledge, ability, and/or proficiency in the subject is not fully recognized by an average of the original and repeated course grades;

WHEREAS an inaccurate reflection of student knowledge, ability, and/or proficiency may prohibit student's ability to graduate, progress in programs, pursue graduate education, and/or obtain employment;

WHEREAS students often fail to perform at their best due to illness, bereavement, family and financial concerns and deserve opportunities to better their academic standing;

WHEREAS students enrolled at UVM experience inequity in preparation for college level coursework and deserve opportunities to better their academic standing;

WHEREAS the faculty on SAC, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, the Student Government Association, the Director for

Student Financial Services, and the Registrar were involved/consulted as part of the revision process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Policy on Repeated Courses be revised as presented, and
2. The grade of "R" be added to the list of available grades, and
3. That the grade of "R" be applied by the Registrar or their representative to courses that have been repeated.

Motion: Susanmarie Harrington moved to amend the resolution by adding the phrase "(unless the course catalog specifies that a course may be repeated for credit)" in parenthesis at the end of the first sentence.

Vote: **93% approve**, 3% oppose, 3% abstain. The motion to amend carried.

Discussion on the amended resolution included clarification on repeated courses, non-repeatable courses, and in-topic courses. The University Policy on Repeated Courses is separate from the Code of Academic Integrity. The policy and process for the grade of XF will remain with the Academic Integrity Office

The question was called. An electronic vote was held. The motion carried, ending discussion.

Vote on the Resolution to Revise the University Policy for Repeated Courses as Amended: **88% approve**, 12% oppose, 0% abstain. The motion carried. The approved revision is attached to these minutes.

5. **Student Affairs Committee (SAC) Resolution: To Revise the Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy Regarding Class Attendance** – Co-chairs, Kenneth Allen and Jennifer Prue presented the following resolution from the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate:

Resolution to Revise the Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy Regarding Class Attendance
Passed unanimously by Student Affairs Committee on 2/6/20

The members of the UVM Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee (SAC) recommend revisions to the Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy regarding Class Attendance.

WHEREAS the students, faculty, and administrators identified a need to review the current policy;

WHEREAS the current policy lacks language on attendance related to activities that may conflict with regularly scheduled classes;

WHEREAS the current policy lacks clarity on attendance related to bereavement or required legal appearances;

WHEREAS the current policy lacks clarity on the process for excused absences related to health concerns;

WHEREAS the current policy does not explicitly identify varsity intercollegiate athletic and intercollegiate academic-program sponsored competitions as excused absences;

WHEREAS the current policy lacks clarity on conflicts related to religious observance and final exams;

WHEREAS the faculty on the SAC, the Faculty Athletics Representative, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, the Student Government Association, the Registrar, the Director for Student Financial Services, as well as University Legal Counsel were involved/consulted as part of the revision process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy regarding Class Attendance be revised as presented.

Discussion included:

- concerns about the rights of faculty versus the rights of students
- adherence to NCAA policy
- meaning of excused absence and reasonable accommodation
- requirements for how students should document health issues, bereavement, religious observances, etc. vary by college
- concerns about faculty, as mandatory reporters, receiving personal student information
- the need to provide students with recourse when they follow requirements and do not receive reasonable accommodations

The question was called. A hand vote was held. The motion passed, ending discussion.

Vote on the Resolution to Revise the Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy Regarding Class Attendance: 80% approve, 14% oppose, 5% abstain. The motion carried. The approved revision is attached to these minutes.

6. **General Education Process Update** – J. Dickinson, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, presented an update on the General Education Framework. Once the ad hoc committees have completed their work, the revised Gen Ed categories/framework will be presented to the Faculty Senate for discussion at the March 23rd Senate meeting, and for vote at the April 20th Senate meeting. A memo was distributed with an update, and the material is available on the General education website. J. Dickinson will be back in March to report on the work of the ad hoc committees.
7. **University Disaster Preparedness & Decision-Making during Emergency Events** – Gary Derr’s presentation was postponed to a later date due to lack of time.
8. **New Business – none at this time**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate
Resolution to Revise the University Policy on Repeated Courses

Passed unanimously by Student Affairs Committee on 2/6/20

The members of the UVM Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee (SAC) recommend revisions to the University Policy on Repeated Courses.

WHEREAS we heard from students, faculty, staff and administrators who advocated for a review of the current policy;

WHEREAS the current policy fails to reflect that once a course has been repeated student knowledge, ability, and/or proficiency in the subject is not fully recognized by an average of the original and repeated course grades;

WHEREAS an inaccurate reflection of student knowledge, ability, and/or proficiency may prohibit student's ability to graduate, progress in programs, pursue graduate education, and/or obtain employment;

WHEREAS students often fail to perform at their best due to illness, bereavement, family and financial concerns and deserve opportunities to better their academic standing;

WHEREAS students enrolled at UVM experience inequity in preparation for college level coursework and deserve opportunities to better their academic standing;

WHEREAS the faculty on SAC, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, the Student Government Association, the Director for Student Financial Services, and the Registrar were involved/consulted as part of the revision process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Policy on Repeated Courses be revised as presented, and
 2. The grade of "R" be added to the list of available grades, and
 3. That the grade of "R" be applied by the Registrar or their representative to courses that have been repeated.
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Revised University Policy for Repeated Courses
Approved by the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee on 2/6/2020

~~Strike Through~~ = original language that is changed

Italics = new language

Amended – added by Faculty Senate at their meeting on 2/24/20

~~Students who repeat a course only receive credit once for the course. The grades for all occurrences of the course remain on the permanent academic record and all are included in computing the cumulative grade-point average. Any transfer credit for repeated course work will be removed from the transfer credit record. Only the course(s) completed at UVM will be calculated into the GPA.~~

A student may repeat a course at the University of Vermont, but will only receive credit once for that course (unless the course catalog specifies that a course may be repeated for credit). After a course is repeated, the student's transcript will be revised to replace the previous grade for that course with an "R." The GPA calculation will only include the grade for the repeated course, regardless of whether the repeated course grade is higher or lower than the initial course grade. A course may be repeated more than one time only at the discretion of the dean of the student's college/school, after consideration of any impact on the student's financial aid and/or progress to graduation.

Only course(s) completed at UVM will be considered in the calculation of GPA. Any credit for previously transferred course work that is repeated at UVM will be removed from the transfer credit record.

Only courses repeated after [date of implementation of this policy] will be addressed according to the policy above.

In order to make this policy work, we also approve of a new grade of "R" for designation of repeated courses for transcripts and so that the system will not use a particular repeated course grade for GPA calculations. So, that policy language should read as follows:

The grade of "R" will serve the following function: After a course is repeated, the student's transcript will be revised to replace the previous grade for that course with an "R." The repeated course grade will be recorded in the semester in which it was repeated.

The grade of "R" will be added to the transcript key under "Other Grades (not included in computing grade point average)" with the following explanation: "Repeated course."

<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/academicinfo/repeatedcourses/>

University Policy on Repeated Courses
Approved by the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee on 2/6/2020
Amended and Approved by the Faculty Senate on 2/24/2020

A student may repeat a course at the University of Vermont, but will only receive credit once for that course (unless the course catalog specifies that a course may be repeated for credit). After a course is repeated, the student's transcript will be revised to replace the previous grade for that course with an "R." The GPA calculation will only include the grade for the repeated course, regardless of whether the repeated course grade is higher or lower than the initial course grade. A course may be repeated more than one time only at the discretion of the dean of the student's college/school, after consideration of any impact on the student's financial aid and/or progress to graduation.

Only course(s) completed at UVM will be considered in the calculation of GPA. Any credit for previously transferred course work that is repeated at UVM will be removed from the transfer credit record.

Only courses repeated after [date of implementation of this policy] will be addressed according to the policy above.

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The grade of "R" will be added to the transcript key under "Other Grades (not included in computing grade point average)" with the following explanation: "Repeated course."

Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate
Resolution to Revise the Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy Regarding Class Attendance

Passed unanimously by Student Affairs Committee on 2/6/20

The members of the UVM Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee (SAC) recommend revisions to the Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy regarding Class Attendance.

WHEREAS the students, faculty, and administrators identified a need to review the current policy;

WHEREAS the current policy lacks language on attendance related to activities that may conflict with regularly scheduled classes;

WHEREAS the current policy lacks clarity on attendance related to bereavement or required legal appearances;

WHEREAS the current policy lacks clarity on the process for excused absences related to health concerns;

WHEREAS the current policy does not explicitly identify varsity intercollegiate athletic and intercollegiate academic-program sponsored competitions as excused absences;

WHEREAS the current policy lacks clarity on conflicts related to religious observance and final exams;

WHEREAS the faculty on the SAC, the Faculty Athletics Representative, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, the Student Government Association, the Registrar, the Director for Student Financial Services, as well as University Legal Counsel were involved/consulted as part of the revision process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy regarding Class Attendance be revised as presented.

Revised Attendance Policy

Approved by the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee on 2/6/2020

~~Strike Through~~ = original language that is changed

Italics = new language

Students Rights and Responsibilities

Attendance 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 is scheduled which conflicts with a regularly scheduled class, the regularly scheduled class has priority.~~ *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. ~~the student may give permission for the instructor to discuss the situation with a representative from the Center for Health and Wellbeing. As with all absences, the faculty member has final authority to excuse students from classes.~~

Intercollegiate and Academic Competitions:

~~Students participating in inter-collegiate athletics should plan their schedules with special care, recognizing the primary importance of all of their university academic responsibilities. Each semester, members of UVM varsity and junior varsity teams are responsible for documenting in writing any conflicts between their planned athletic schedule and the class schedule to their instructors by the end of the second full week of classes. Students and instructors should then discuss potential conflicts between course requirements and intercollegiate competitions. When an unavoidable conflict exists, the student and instructor should seek a resolution which permits the student to address the course requirement and participate in the athletic competition. The instructor has final authority on this matter.~~ *Students who represent the University of Vermont in official intercollegiate varsity athletic or academic program-sponsored competitions should plan their schedules with special care, recognizing the primary importance of their academic responsibilities. It is the responsibility of the student to avoid signing up for a course or section whose scheduled meetings consistently conflict with the intercollegiate competition and travel schedule. If travel for such intercollegiate competition requires absences from a class, it is also the student's responsibility to provide the instructor with documentation of anticipated absences and to meet with the instructor regarding the missed course work and instruction. Provided a student has submitted documentation for absences due to participation in official intercollegiate competitions, an instructor must excuse the absences and should provide reasonable assistance to the student concerning missed instruction, assignments, and exams, including final exams. Any conflicts between student and instructor may be presented for resolution to the course department chair or College dean's office.*

Religious Holidays: Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. Each semester students should submit in writing to their instructors by the end of the second full week of classes their documented religious holiday schedule for the semester. ~~Faculty must permit students who miss class for the purpose of religious observance to make up the course work. Each student is held responsible for knowledge and observance of these rules and regulations, including those concerned with academic honesty. Please refer to the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibility](#) policy webpage.~~ *Faculty will treat these absences as excused and will provide reasonable accommodation to the student concerning missed instruction, assignments, and exams, including final exams. Any conflicts between student and instructor may be presented for resolution to the course department chair or College dean's office.*

Disenrollment Policy: The instructor has the right to disenroll any student from a course if that student

1. does not meet the prerequisites of the course, or
2. fails to attend a scheduled course by the third instructional day of a semester or the second scheduled class session of a course, whichever comes later, unless the student has notified the instructor and has been excused.

To disenroll a student, the instructor must notify the registrar by the add/drop deadline. Upon such notification, the registrar shall remove the student's name from the class list and the course from the student's schedule. The student is responsible for determining whether they are enrolled in a class. Any conflicts between student and instructor may be presented for resolution to the course department chair or College dean's office.

Original policy link: <http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/academicinfo/rightsandresponsibilities/>

Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy Regarding Class Attendance
Revisions Approved by the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee on 2/6/2020
Approved by the Faculty Senate on 2/24/2020

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.

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