![The University of Vermont Faculty Senate logo]

Student Affairs Committee
Minutes
February 3, 2022
8:30-10:00 a.m.
Microsoft Teams

Present: Thomas Borchert (Faculty Senate President), Evan Eyler (FS VP), Matthew Carlson (CAS), Terry Delaney (CALS), Denise Hersey (LIB), Karla Karstens (CEMS), Akshay Mutha (GSB), Jennifer Prue (CESS), Evan Siegel (SGA), Devika Singh (LCOM), Sarah Twitchell (LCOM), Scott Van Keuren (CAS)

Absent: Kenneth Allen (CNHS), Vacant (GSS), Kris Stepenuck (RSENR)

Guests: Erica Caloiero, Veronika Carter, J. Dickinson

Co-Chair Jennifer Prue called the meeting to order at 8:30 am via Microsoft Teams.

1. **Minutes.** Karla moved to accept the minutes of January 2022 as written, Akshay seconded the motion. **The minutes were approved.**

2. **RLC Update, J. Dickinson.** A current list of Learning Communities include Outdoor Experience, Sustainability, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Arts and Creativity, Leadership and Social Change, Cultural Crossroads, Wellness Environment, Liberal Arts Scholars Program and Honors College. Ann Clayton is the Associate Director for Learning Communities and John Sama is the Coordinator for Academic Integration in the Learning Community.

Bridging Academic and Residential Experiences: UVM Learning Communities

J. Dickinson
VP for Academic Affairs and Student Success

The University of Vermont

Integrative Learning Goals for LCs

For First Years and Sophomores, Learning Communities should:

- Build community around an academic theme

- Enhance faculty connections with students

- Create meaningful overlap between students' academic and social lives

- Be a first opportunity to integrate diverse learning experiences at UVM

New Model for Learning Communities: Linked 3-credit Courses

- Implementation Planning Team has Res Life, CFAS, SSC, AD, FS, and PO reps

- This year is a "transition year" with no 1-credit courses, and no linked courses

- Starting in Fall 2022, all students will be block scheduled into a 3-credit course

    - 3-4 courses linked to each LC

    - Most will be regular offerings

    - Faculty teaching these courses can apply for course enhancement funds

    - There is a plan for students with highly scheduled first semester schedules

    - Course is block scheduled, but not required

Where we are right now:

- Finalizing linked courses with ADs and working on block scheduling rules

- Planning advising documents and linked course faculty engagement

- Working with Admissions on ASV communications

- Coordinating with Res Life on schedule for LC assignments

- LC Reads and programming planning by LCs

What is new?

- 3-credit courses for all learning communities
  - Within a few years: each will have at least one Gen Ed designation or fulfill a degree requirement

- Learning community Program Directors are planning faculty engagements to fit with their semester-long Community Learning Model curriculum

- More focus on thematic engagement through academic offerings that are part of regular course planning by units, and broader types of faculty engagement

If there are any other RLC questions please send them to Terry and Jennifer, they will collect and forward to J. for a response.

3. **Bias Response Process, Erica Caloiero.** Faculty are not part of the process currently. Relatively small percent of the UVM community is clear on how to report bias / hate motivated incidents on campus. The process is a challenge. Where this process is housed is being looked at, it may fit better into the work of diversity, equity and inclusion. It is known that this process can be improved and they are looking into ways to make it work best for the UVM community. This also includes some technical support and updating. Staffing concerns are also another issue. Position vacancies prevent them from getting essential work done. Even as it is difficult and exhausting, they are continuing to move forward. Social media makes this whole process more complicated; this is something that changes how they have to look at the process.

   The SAC would like to be kept informed on the ongoing process as it changes and develops. They would like to also have a follow up discussion about the health implications this has on the UVM community.

4. **Withdraw Flexibility, J. Dickinson.**

   Proposed resolution:

   For the Spring 2022 semester, the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate supports the Student Services Collaborative in their work with UVM students by granting additional flexibility in the reasons and specific documentation required to grant a late withdrawal request for a student. Students will need to follow regular late withdrawal procedures by requesting a late withdrawal from their Dean's office. The Dean's office will gather more information about the student's situation and will determine whether extenuating circumstances related to COVID-19 played a significant role in the student's ability to progress in the courses or courses for which a withdraw is requested. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis and all emails and other documentation related to the process will be kept to support records of all approved W requests. This flexibility is for the Spring 2022 semester only.

   Thomas moved to accept the Withdraw Flexibility Policy; Karla seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

   Approve: 8   Oppose: 0   Abstain: 0

5. **Old Business/ New Business.**
   A. **Trash cans on campus.** There is a community webform to request a trash can, the SAC requested the link to the webform. After a form is submitted the Zero Waste Committee reviews the form. They make a decision, if they decide in favor, they place a trash can for a year trial and re-evaluate after the year is complete.

B. **Withdraw Policy.** J. would like time at a future SAC meeting to have a broader conversation on the current policy.
C. **Enrollment Management,** the SAC would like to invite guests on this topic to a future meeting.

The SAC was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting of the SAC will be on March 3, 2022 at 8:30am on Microsoft Teams.