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

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of the September SAC meeting are approved as written.

2. **Enrollment Management Update, Jay Jacobs & Trent Klingerman.**

**FAFSA Simplification Act**

**Financial Aid at UVM**

**Strategic Goals**
- Address the barriers to cost and affordability while maintaining the university’s competitive advantage
- Be affordable and accessible to all students who demonstrate financial need
- Optimize the current institutional financial aid budget to maintain headcount and increase net tuition revenue while meeting institutional priorities regarding student quality and diversity

**What We’re Doing**
- Incremental movement from merit-based to need-based aid
- Consumable financial aid offers
- Fifth year in a row of frozen tuition and fees (fourth for room and board)
- Catamount Commitment & UVM Promise
UVM Aid Offer

- Consumable
- Interactive
- In admission portal with:
  - Scholarships
  - Honors College invite

FAFSA Simplification Act

- The FAFSA simplification act, approved in late 2020
- Central goals are increased transparency and fewer barriers to aid
- Elements already implemented include:
  - Removal of Selective Service registration requirement
  - Removal of drug conviction eligibility restriction
- Major elements are effective with the 2024-25 financial aid cycle
FAFSA Simplification for 2024-2025

- Brand new FAFSA – rebuilt from the ground floor
- Easier application for families to complete
- Automated, (nearly) universal data transmission from IRS into FAFSA
- Change in data elements captured and used to determine aid eligibility
- Change to which parent completes the FAFSA in cases on divorce/separation
  - The parent who provided the most financial support, not the parent you lived with most
- Given scope of changes, 2024-25 FAFSA will be available in December 2023

EFC
- Lowest is $0
- Considers AGI and untaxed income
- Reduced when multiple children in college simultaneously
- Not impacted by small business or farm equity

SAI
- Can be negative
- Considers AGI and limited untaxed income
- Not impacted by multiple children in college
- Considers small business and farm equity
Federal Pell Grant

Pell Grant eligibility today
- Based on EFC
  - Maximum Pell Grant if EFC = $0
  - Student must know EFC to determine Pell Grant eligibility.
  - Eligibility is opaque to students and families

Pell Grant eligibility beginning 2024-25
- Based on Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and HHS Federal Poverty Guidelines
  - Maximum Pell Grant if AGI < 175% of poverty guideline or <225% of poverty guideline for a single parent
  - Parent AGI for dependent students; student/spouse AGI for independent students
  - Eligibility is transparent: students and families can anticipate Pell Grant eligibility

Returning “bridge” students

What we can do:
- Evaluate impact of EFC to SAI transition on bridge students
- Evaluate reported income and assets to determine where students have experienced a change in need vs. a change in the formula
- Anticipate additional financial aid appeals
- Honor existing commitments to the extent possible

What we cannot do:
- Reflexively change UVM aid based on how SAI compares to EFC
- Exempt students from the EFC to SAI transition
- Lock student aid awards at current levels/ignore change in financial need
- Offset all changes in federal financial aid with institutional funds
There is concern over a government shutdown and what this will do to the rollout. They expect the new system to have some flaws and they will work through it as best as they can.

Jay recommended this article to the committee. [https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-complication-with-fafsa-simplification/](https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-complication-with-fafsa-simplification/)

Jay would like to get this information to the SGA, unfortunately the new SGA reps were not present at this meeting.

**SFFA SCOTUS Cases**

- Narrow decisions surrounding the admissions decisions and selection process
- Race can no longer be considered, in and of itself, as a factor in admissions
- Race can be considered if “an applicant’s discussion of how race affected his or her life, be it through discrimination, inspiration, or otherwise.”

- No changes to:
  - financial aid
  - scholarships
  - recruitment/yield programs
  - student success initiatives

- Goals at UVM to provide diverse perspectives at a PWI in VT
Impact on UVM’s Admissions Process

- Racial/ethnic data will be collected, but suppressed so admissions readers cannot consider
- Optional essay prompting students to tell us about their identities and how it has shaped their experiences
- Continuing to explore and understand race-neutral practices
  - Test-optional
  - Legacy admissions
- Leaning into Student Success
  - Young Men of Talent
  - Summer Enrichment Scholars Program
  - First Gen @ UVM

Fall Transfer Retention

2023 Cohort retention Goal = 89.5%

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The committee discussed the benefits of Jay and Trent presenting this information to the full senate at a future Faculty Senate meeting.
3. **Graduate College student athlete attendance policy preview, Thomas Borchert & Alicia Ebert.** There are several D1 teams that have students that are eligible to play because they are enrolled as graduate students at the University of Vermont. The committee wants more information before they approve extending the current undergraduate athlete attendance policy to graduate students. J. suggested inviting John Crock to offer more information. Jennifer is going to work with Alicia to get information out to the committee before next meeting.

The Graduate College is currently working on policies, so this is a great time to work through and how this committees work can be integrated.

- Should the operating procedures or charge of the SAC add some language around graduate students.
- Adding graduate college representation to the committee
- The Faculty Senate office is working to get a representative from the GSS.

4. **Old / New Business.** – Michael McDonald will be representing the SAC on the Libraries Ad Hoc Committee.

*S*emester replacement for Matthew Carlson.

**Teaching conflict

The SAC was adjourned at 9:50a.m. The next meeting of the SAC will be on November 2, 2023, at 8:30am on Microsoft Teams.