

# **STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (SAC) OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT FACULTY SENATE**

## **2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Committee Members:** Nancy Welch (CAS), Sin-Yee Chan (CAS), Terry Delaney (CALs), Steve Gove (GSB), Jennifer Prue, Co-Chair (CESS), William Louisos (CEMS), Trish O’Kane (RSENR), Patricia Mardeusz (LIB), Jonathan Flyer (LCOM), Mia Hockett (LCOM), Kenneth Allen, Co-Chair (CNHS), Sam Pasquoloni (SGA), Berke Tinaz (GSS)

### ***CHARGE OF THE SAC***

This committee shall have responsibility for matters relating to student affairs, their effect on the educational process, and the academic climate of the University, including items referred to in Sections 1.1d, 1.2e, 1.2f, 1.4, and 1.5. It shall recommend policy with respect to honors programs, remedial programs, athletics, discipline, health service, placement, housing, student activities, etc. It shall include among its duties in-depth and ongoing review of University admissions and financial aid policies, including their relation to projected enrollments. This committee shall establish policy in matters related to general admissions standards and prerequisites, as referred to in Section 1.1d, and shall review, recommend and participate in formulation of admissions procedures. The committee shall establish a continuing liaison with student government groups and with all appropriate administrative and academic office

During the calendar year the SAC reviewed, considered and in some instances passed resolutions designed to inform the University community’s discussions regarding topics pertinent to the charge of our committee. The following is a list of topics discussed or considered by the committee for action:

- Outside of Class Exceptions
- GGP Update
- Discuss Resolution on Faculty Language around Alcohol and Drug Use, Aidan Dougherty.
- Center for Health and Wellbeing Presentation, John Paul Grogan, Michelle Paavola and Carrie Fleider.
- Call for nominations to serve as SAC representative on the Educational Stewardship Committee
- SGA Activity Priority Updates

*The following is a list of topics acted on by the committee:*

**Recommended Changes to Policy on Athletics and Academics.**

A motion passed to form a subcommittee of the SAC that crafted language to amend the existing Policy on Athletics and Academics and to create a Policy for Intercollegiate University Sponsored Activities and Academics.

**Recommendation to Suspend Navigate Advising Platform.**

The committee passed a motion to send this statement to both the Office of the Provost of the University of Vermont and to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

In light of faculty concerns regarding the Navigate advising platform as currently configured, the Student Affairs Committee calls on the Provost's office to refer the questions of student data privacy and safety to a standing Faculty Senate committee and to suspend the Navigate advising platform until the concerns have been resolved to the satisfaction of the full Senate.

**Recommendation for Grade Consideration Policy:**

The committee unanimously passed the following resolution.

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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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."

**Recommendation in support of University Pass/No Pass Policy**  
***Special Meeting: On /Pass Fail and the COVID 19 pandemic***

***Motion 1:***

The SAC calls for UVM through the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to follow Carnegie Mellon, MIT, Middlebury, and other universities in providing expanded access for undergraduates to a P/F option for the Spring 2020 semester

***Motion 2:***

The SAC recommends that students be allowed to see their final letter grades prior to making a decision in regards to changing the mechanism of their grade assignment to a form of Pass/Fail.