



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Student Affairs Committee

Minutes

October 7, 2021

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Microsoft Teams

Present: Kenneth Allen (CNHS), Thomas Borchert (Faculty Senate President), Matthew Carlson (CAS), Terry Delaney (CALs), Steve Gove (GSB), Denise Hersey (LIB), Karla Karstens (CEMS), Jennifer Prue (CESS), Devika Singh (LCOM), Sarah Twitchell (LCOM), Scott Van Keuren (CAS), Evan Siegel (SGA), Kris Stepenuck (RSENr)

Absent: (GSS)

Guests: J. Dickinson, Jay Jacobs

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

- 1. Admissions Strategic Plan.** Jay Jacobs, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, presented highlights from the draft Strategic Enrollment Plan (the full slide-deck is available in the SAC-FacSen Team files). Jay is seeking feedback on the draft 5-year plan from across the campus and welcomed individuals to contact him directly (Jason.Jacobs@uvm.edu) with questions and suggestions after the meeting. Four pillars of the Strategic Enrollment Framework are: Pricing & Affordability, Marketing & Communication, Recruitment & Admissions, and Student Success. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is incorporated into the four pillars. Each pillar has goals, strategies to meet the goals and key performance indicators to measure the trajectory of meeting the goals. Discussion included challenges of pulling in both international and national minority communities, challenge of reaching people without technological connection, opportunities for using community colleges as partners (including out-of-state and international), test-optional admissions, subsidizing summer programs, addressing student values including safety, summer financial aid, reparations, and scholarships for Abenaki students. Jay Jacobs will provide a slide deck of retention data, including data for transfer students. This slide deck will be posted in the Oct 21 folder in the SAC Team files tab. Jay Jacobs acknowledged the tension involved in competing priorities, and the challenge of making

sure that the revenue stream continues in a way to support instructional offerings and student support services in order to recruit, retain and support students.

2. **Minutes.** The minutes of the September 2021 meeting were approved as written. Terry moved to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and carried with 8 approve, and 1 abstain.

3. **Withdraw Flexibility.** J. Dickinson, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success, asked the SAC to approve a continuation of the late withdrawal flexibility rule through the Fall 2021. Purpose of the Resolution for Late Withdrawal Flexibility for Fall 2021. The purpose of late withdrawal flexibility for Fall 2021 remains the same as for the previous semesters in which it was granted, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021: to acknowledge the broad disruption of students' education caused by the pandemic, and to acknowledge that these disruptions may not directly involve medical issues, but are similarly unpredictable in their timing and in the delayed and extended impact they may have on students' ability to complete their coursework. This flexibility is exercised by the Student Services/Dean's office staff who normally manage late withdraw requests, and requires the same documentation process as for late withdrawals that conform to the standard policy in place.

Resolution: For the Fall 2021 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 Fall 2021 semester only.
Vote: 11 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. The Resolution Passed.

4. **Outside of Class Expectations.** Ken Allen provided an overview of the prior SAC work on this issue, which was brought to the SAC by the Student Government Association (SGA) representative in 2019. Anecdotal evidence from faculty confirmed that there was an issue, and several reported that students have missed class when another instructor scheduled an exam or mandatory activity that conflicted with their class. Students attended an SAC meeting to share their experiences. The SAC conducted a survey of the student body. The survey results were included in the materials for this meeting. Ken Allen noted that the survey underreports the issue, because the survey did not separate responses by grade, and first-year student respondents may not have experienced outside of class expectations yet. It was noted

that accessibility is a separate issue and there is an ADA policy in place. Discussion included the value of outside of class activities and the importance of student awareness of expectations prior to registration. It was noted that there is the ability to block time slots on the registration schedule for activities with times known in advance, notations can be made in the schedule of courses and/or the expanded section description, and faculty often provide flexibility and multiple alternatives for students to choose from. It was also noted that it is important to consider the larger impacts of activities outside of class, and to be sensitive to the diversity of students who may have childcare and work obligations when scheduling activities. Issues of equity, values, and safety were discussed. UVM does have a policy in place to address hour tests and final exams, which states that regularly scheduled classes have priority over specially scheduled common hour exams. Ken Allen expressed the need for a policy statement to put parameters around outside of class expectations.

5. Old Business/ New Business

Thomas Borchert, Faculty Senate President, announced that there will be a call for a volunteer from among the members of the SAC to serve on an ad hoc committee as part of a governance process to review proposals related to the establishment, reorganization, or elimination of colleges, schools, schools within a college, or departments. The Faculty Senate has been working with the administration to develop a process for reviewing proposals that are not strictly curricular. An example is an anticipated proposal to create a School of Languages, which would combine the language programs from the College of Arts and Sciences. The new processes being developed call for an ad hoc committee to be comprised of 3 faculty senators elected from the Faculty Senate, and one member each from the Faculty Senate Standing Committees, and one member of the Faculty Senate Executive Council. The ad hoc committee will gather faculty commentary, review the proposal, and make a recommendation regarding the proposal to the Faculty Senate.

The SAC was adjourned at 10:03 a.m. The next meeting of the SAC will be on November 4, 2021 at 8:30am on Microsoft Teams.