



FACULTY SENATE

Student Affairs Committee

Minutes

February 4, 2021

8:30-10:00

Microsoft Teams

Present Kenneth Allen (CNHS), Charlie Borah (SGA), Chris Burns (Faculty Senate President), Sin Yee Chan (CAS), Terry Delaney (CALs), Jonathan Flyer (LCOM), Steve Gove (GSB), Denise Hersey (LIB), William Louisos (CEMS), Jennifer Prue (CESS), Kris Stepenuck (RSENR), Sarah Twitchell (LCOM), Scott Van Keuren (CAS)

Absent Charlie Borah (SGA), Berke Tinaz (GSA),

Guests J. Dickinson, Veronika Carter

Co-Chair Jennifer Prue called the meeting to order at 8:33 am via Microsoft Teams.

- 1. Minutes.** The minutes of the January 2021 meeting were approved with minor changes. Jen moved to approve. The motion was seconded and carried
- 2. Grade Change Process.** Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, J. Dickinson and Registrar Veronika Carter reported that the UVM Auditing Office completed an audit of the processes and procedures for grade changes. The auditors recommended that faculty be asked to document a reason whenever a grade is changed. A drop-down menu is proposed with language general enough to cover all reasons for a grade change. The following drop-down menu is proposed:
 - To enter a grade to replace an I, AF, ANP, AUP, SP, UP, XC or M
 - To correct an error in grade submission

Motion: Ken Allen moved that the grade change process be changed to allow for the additional prompts in the system as proposed by J. Dickinson and Veronika Carter. The motion was seconded and **carried unanimously.**

3. **SGA Update.** Charlie Borah notified the chair that an SGA representative was not able to attend the meeting to provide an update.
4. **Black-Lives-Matter Resolution.** Terry Delaney shared the following revised version of the BLM Flag Resolution:

Resolution In Support Of Black Lives Matter (Ver 5)

WHEREAS, The Black Lives Matter Movement has at its heart, a strong message that acknowledges the value, contributions, and promise of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and decries racial inequality;

WHEREAS, The BIPOC community has been victimized by systemic racism;

WHEREAS, the faculty has a responsibility to embody a culture of equality and respect for all, by expressing clearly and publicly its support for the global movement toward racial justice;

WHEREAS, the faculty defends the rights of all people and acknowledges the struggles faced by BIPOC persons;

WHEREAS, the faculty wishes to demonstrate its support to the Black Lives Matter movement by acknowledging the long history of racism in our country and the pressing need for change, recognizing that systemic change will not come solely from awareness of racism, but from dialogue and action within our government and our institutions of higher education, which have the power to be transformative;

WHEREAS, the administration has pledged their commitment to Justice in its *Our Common Ground* statement that calls on the UVM community to “unite against all forms of injustice”; and

WHEREAS, the administration has pledged to give “stewardship over the third flagpole at the Davis Center” to the Student Government Association (Sept. 29, 2020 memo, from President and Provost);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont supports the Black Lives Matter movement and recommends that a BLM flag fly at all times except when honoring other persons or groups as determined by the Student Government Association (in adherence to the SGA Flagpole Policy).

Motion: Ken Allen moved to vote to accept the resolution as amended. The motion was seconded. An electronic vote was held on MS Forms.

Vote: 9 approve, 0 oppose, 1 abstain. **The motion carried.**

5. **Old Business** – none at this time.

6. New Business. The following items were discussed as possible future agenda items:

- Admissions policy regarding SAT requirement
- Marie Johnson presentation on student debt and financial aid,
- Jay Jacobs, new Vice Provost for Enrollment Management,
- Transparency regarding class evaluations, use of expanded course descriptions, and availability of syllabi for students
- Faculty requiring students to attend activities outside of class time,
- John Paul to provide an update on mental health issues in the era of COVID and students being isolated in their dorms,
- Dani Comey regarding committee focused on support for first generation students.
- Face-to-face vs remote instruction – faculty preferences, student preferences.

The SAC was adjourned at 10:00am. The next meeting of the SAC will be on March 4, 2021 at 8:30am on Microsoft Teams.