



FACULTY SENATE

Student Affairs Committee

Minutes

November 6, 2019

8:30-10:00

Waterman 427a

Present Kenneth Allen (CNHS), Nick Bouffard (SGA), Sin Yee Chan (CAS), Thomas Chittenden (Faculty Senate President), Terry Delaney (CALs), Jonathan Flyer (LCOM), Steve Gove (GSB), Patricia Mardeusz (LIB), William Louisos (CEMS), Jennifer Prue (CESS), Nancy Welch (CAS)

Absent Mia Hockett (LCOM), Trish O’Kane (RSENR), Sam Pasualoni (SGA),

Guests Annie Stevens, Jamie Benson, Aidan Dougherty, Jennifer Dickinson

Co-Chair Kenneth Allen called the meeting to order at 8:33 am Waterman 427a.

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of October 3rd 2019 were approved with no changes.

2. **Discuss Resolution on Faculty Language around Alcohol and Drug Use, Aidan Dougherty.**

ort reminder comes from the Student Government Association on behalf of the student body and is intended for all academic faculty.

To UVM faculty,

Across America, approx. 80%¹ of students abuse alcohol and one in five² have used an illicit drug in the last month. Here at UVM, substance use and misuse has become normalized and part of our culture. This issue impacts a wide array of students, but often comes down the hardest on students who struggle with substance misuse and are in recovery. We must come together as a community to support the strong efforts being made to address this systemic issue on campus in a comprehensive manner, but equally important to how we provide resources is how we approach and discuss the topic.

While it is unhealthy to ignore the issue of substance misuse, it is also unhealthy to normalize it. Here on campus, only 45%³ of students use cannabis or use cannabis regularly but our culture acts like the school is all stoners. This normalization provides a hazard for students in recovery. While it is concentrated to a small population of the student body, the struggle they are experiencing at UVM and on college campuses across the nation regarding substance issues is an epidemic. A heavy drinking and drug culture is detrimental to an academic community⁴ and it is the responsibility of our faculty to be cautious of how they talk about substance, especially in the classroom.

It is important to hold the campus accountable to the fact that this kind of behavior is unhealthy. While the weekend is hard enough to get through for students sensitive to environmental triggers and references to substance misuse, **it is not uncommon to hear references to crazy parties, binge-drinking, hangovers, and drug use by your professor during class on Monday morning.** Cracking a joke about your students skipping class because of being too hungover or smoking on 4/20 may seem harmless but it normalizes this culture; it normalizes dangerous relationships with drinking. In a world where that relationship is so often tested, **our classrooms must be a place away from those challenges.**

We hope this message reminds our faculty of the role they play on campus as mentors and educators and to be more thoughtful in how they discuss substance use.

For more questions or to learn more, please reach out to the Catamount Recovery Team at recoverycommunity@uvm.edu.

¹ <https://www.addictioncenter.com/college/facts-statistics-college-drug-abuse/>

² Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2015). *Results from the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed tables*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

³ Data shared from the Catamount Recovery Program and Joy Solomon

⁴ White, H., & Rabiner, David L. (2012). *College drinking and drug use / edited by Helene Raskin White, David L. Rabiner*. (Duke series in child development and public policy). New York: Guilford Press.

Aidan Dougherty will revise the draft resolution with suggestion from the committee. He will send it to Ken and Jen to be included on the agenda for the December SAC meeting.

3. Policy Recommendation GPA Calculations for Repeated Courses J Dickinson

Current Policy

(<http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/academicinfo/repeatedcourses/>)

Repeated Courses

Students who repeat a course only receive credit once for the course. The grades for all occurrences of the course remain on the permanent academic record and all are included in computing the cumulative grade-point average. Any transfer credit for repeated course work will be removed from the transfer credit record. Only the course(s) completed at UVM will be calculated into the GPA.

Draft Revision of the UVM Policy on Repeated Courses and GPA

A student may repeat a course at any time during their enrollment at the University of Vermont. Students who repeat a course will only receive credit once for the course. The original grade remains on the transcript until the student repeats the course. Once the course is repeated, a permanent notation replaces the grade for the first attempt of the course in the semester in which it was taken. The grade earned in the repeated course appears on the transcript in the semester in which the course was repeated. Only the grade earned for the repeat enrollment is factored into the student's cumulative grade-point average. The grade for the repeat enrollment is the final grade for the course, regardless of whether it is above or below the original grade. Any transfer credit for repeated course work will be removed from the transfer credit record. Only the courses repeated after [date] will be included in this calculation of GPA.

Nancy motioned to approve the above proposal; it was seconded by Kenneth. The committee voted.

Approve: 9

Oppose: 1

Abstain: 2

The proposal was passed by the SAC.

4. **Athletic Policy Revision.** Nancy, Bereke and Jonathan worked on the current draft. The committee had discussions. The updated revision is:

Existing Policy (Under Students' Rights and Responsibilities)

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes. The instructor has the final authority to excuse absences. It is the responsibility of the instructor to inform students of his or her policy for handling absences and tardiness, and the penalties that may be imposed. Notification should be done both verbally and in writing at the beginning of each semester. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor regarding the reason for absence or tardiness from class, and to discuss this with the instructor in advance whenever possible. The instructor has the right to require documentation in support of the student's request for an absence from class. If an out-of-class exam is scheduled which conflicts with a regularly scheduled class, the regularly scheduled class has priority.

The instructor has the right to disenroll any student from a course if that student

1. does not meet the prerequisites of the course, or
2. fails to attend a scheduled course by the third instructional day of a semester or the second scheduled class session of a course, whichever comes later, unless the student has notified the instructor and has been excused.

To disenroll a student, the instructor must notify the registrar by the add/drop deadline. Upon such notification, the registrar shall remove the student's name from the class list and the course from the student's schedule. The student is responsible for determining whether she or he is enrolled in a class.

*When a student is unable to attend class for a health reason, the student may give permission for the instructor to discuss the situation with a representative from the Center for Health and Wellbeing. As with all absences, the faculty member has final authority to excuse students from classes.

Athletic-Academic Conflicts Students participating in inter-collegiate athletics should plan their schedules with special care, recognizing the primary importance of all of their university academic responsibilities. Each semester, members of UVM varsity and junior varsity teams are responsible for documenting in writing any conflicts between their planned athletic schedule and the class schedule to their instructors by the end of the second full week of classes. Students and instructors should then discuss potential conflicts between course requirements and intercollegiate competitions. When an unavoidable conflict exists, the student and instructor should seek a resolution which permits the student to address the course requirement and participate in the athletic competition. The instructor has final authority on this matter.

Religious Holidays Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. Each semester students should submit in writing to their instructors by the end of the second full week of classes their documented religious holiday schedule for the semester. Faculty must permit students who miss class for the purpose of religious observance to make up the course work.

Draft Revised Policy

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes. With the exceptions outlined below concerning students officially representing the University of Vermont in inter-collegiate competitions and religious observances, the instructor has the final authority to excuse absences. It is the responsibility of the instructor to inform students of their policy for handling absences and tardiness, and the penalties that may be imposed. Notification should be done both verbally and in writing at the beginning of each semester.

When scheduling for-credit or extra-credit activities (e.g., field trip, campus lecture, out-of-class exam) outside of the scheduled course time that are not included in the course catalog description or Extended Course Description, it is also the responsibility of the instructor to

1. provide notification both verbally and in writing about these activities, including any financial cost, no later than the end of the first week of class
2. provide and clearly communicate both verbally and in writing alternatives for students who cannot attend an out-of-class activity due to course, work, or other conflict
3. adhere with ADA and UVM policies to ensure that activities, including transportation, are accessible and impose no risk burden on students.

It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor regarding the reason for absence or tardiness from class, and to discuss this with the instructor in advance whenever possible. The instructor has the right to require documentation in support of the student's request for an absence from class and to determine if an accommodation (e.g., excused absence, deadline extension, substituted work) is warranted. If an out-of-class exam is scheduled which conflicts with a regularly scheduled class, the regularly scheduled class has priority.

When a student is unable to attend classes for reasons of health, bereavement, or required legal appearances (e.g., jury duty, citizenship hearing), the student should contact their academic dean's office regarding accommodation and support. An instructor may request through the appropriate dean's office documentation to support a student's request for a medically excused and other absence.

Intercollegiate Competitions: Students who represent the University of Vermont in official intercollegiate varsity athletic or academic program-sponsored competitions should plan their schedules with special care, recognizing the primary importance of their academic responsibilities. It is the responsibility of the student to avoid signing up for a course or section whose scheduled meetings consistently conflict with the intercollegiate competition and travel schedule. If travel for such intercollegiate competition requires absences from a class, it is also the student's responsibility to provide the instructor with documentation of anticipated absences and to meet with the instructor to discuss how the student will make up the missed course work and instruction. Provided a student has submitted documentation for absences due to participation in official intercollegiate competitions, an instructor may not penalize the student for the absences and should provide reasonable assistance to the student concerning missed instruction, assignments, and exams. Any conflicts between student and instructor may be presented for resolution to the course department chair or course program director.

Religious Observance: Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. Each semester students should submit in writing to their instructors by the end of the second full week of classes their documented religious observance schedule for the semester. Faculty will treat these absences as excused and will provide reasonable assistance to the student concerning missed instruction, assignments, and exams.

Disenrollment Policy: The instructor has the right to disenroll any student from a course if that student

1. does not meet the prerequisites of the course, or
2. fails to attend a scheduled course by the third instructional day of a semester or the second scheduled class session of a course, whichever comes later, unless the student has notified the instructor and has been excused.

To disenroll a student, the instructor must notify the registrar by the add/drop deadline. Upon such notification, the registrar shall remove the student's name from the class list and the course from the student's schedule. The student is responsible for determining whether they are enrolled in a class.

The committee will continue these discussions via e-mail and find the most appropriate way to proceed.

5. New Business. There was no new business at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 am.
