Diversity Curriculum Review Committee (DCRC)  
of the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee

Minutes

Thursday, November 16, 2017, 3:00 – 4:30 pm  
Waterman 327

Present: Pablo Bose (CAS), Holly Busier (HCOL), Evan Eyler (LCOM), Shana Haines (CESS), Sue Kasser (CNHS, CAC), Joanne Pencak (GSB), Jonathan Sands (CEMS), Scott Schaffer (LIB), Tao Sun (CALS).

Absent: Jarlath O’Neil Dunne (RSENR), Thomas Macias (CAS), Amani Whitfield (CAS).

Guests: Veronika Carter

I. Approval of minutes from the October 19, 2017 meeting. The minutes of October 19, 2017 were approved as written.

II. Updates.

a. DCRC Chair. There has been a lot of added work to the DCRC for the fall semester. If anyone on the DCRC is interested in chairing the committee please contact Pablo to discuss the work load. Pablo will continue to lead the DCRC until there is a replacement. The committee discussed that it would be beneficial to review the charge of the DCRC when developing workload.

b. Student Proposals.
   i. SGA Resolution. Add proposals.
RESOLUTION

Senate Bill No.: R.F. 2

Date Submitted: 10/30/2017

Date Introduced: 10/31/2017

Date Action Taken: 10/31/2017

Introduced By: Chair Reginah Mako, Committee on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

Sponsored: Chair Benson

Signed: President Petrillo

Certified: Speaker of the Senate Tracer

Resolution Urging the Diversity Curriculum Review Committee of the Faculty Senate Include Student Representation

WHEREAS, the 1979 COBE Report on General Education at UVM outlined the importance of having general education requirements, and spoke to the necessity of learning “about the range of cultural diversity”;¹

WHEREAS, in April of 2006 the Faculty Senate, in concert with Provost Bramley and President Fogel, presented to the Board of Trustees a Six-Credit Undergraduate Diversity Graduation Requirement,² which was approved and instituted the following academic year,

WHEREAS, in the 2015-16 Academic year, the Diversity Curriculum Review Committee (DCRC) was established and formally incorporated into a Faculty Senate subcommittee, staffed and chaired through the Senate,

WHEREAS, in their 2015-16 report to the Faculty Senate, the DCRC stated that they “need to devise and begin to implement a process to review existing D1 and D2 courses, as per [their] charge”;³

¹ COBE Report: General Education at the University of Vermont (1979) - http://www.uvm.edu/president/transform/Page=uvmreports.html
To whom it may concern,

We, the thirteen students organizing for racial justice at The University of Vermont, are writing to you to ask for two non-Student Government Association positions to be added to the Diversity Curriculum Review Committee with voting power in order to accurately represent perspectives of the wider UVM student body. It is our understanding that the Diversity Courses were created by two waves of student activism. Students were tired of the lack of adequate diversity education and, inspired by student activism on campuses like San Francisco State University and UC Berkeley, UVM students engaged in a struggle with the university over the creation of more curricular opportunities for students to learn about diversity in this world, in this country, and on this campus. We honor this history of student activism and bottom up approach to curricular affairs. However, we also understand that student experiences in D1/D2 classes have been both varied and at times harmful. Students of color in D1/D2 classes are microaggressed, triggered, invalidated, and put in the position of answering for their identities which makes their classrooms inaccessible to their learning. We see the problem of D1/D2 classes as an issue of access to higher education. User-led practice is fundamental in creating an appropriate response to the classroom environment.

It is our understanding that the SGA Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity will also be submitting a proposal for student positions. We have been working with SGA Chair, Reginah Mako, to better understand the position of SGA to do the work that is necessary to accurately represent the UVM student body. It is our belief that while the SGA Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity is currently representative of students impacted by the Diversity Courses, in past years this has not been true. We are also aware that many people in the student body do not participate in SGA or are not even aware of elections or candidates. In March 2015, The Vermont Cynic wrote an article titled “SGA elections go unnoticed by students” in which one student Kirsten Fletcher, now a senior at the University of Vermont stated, “I’ve seen posters about the SGA elections but I do not know who is running. I did not know a debate is going on. I probably do not plan on voting.” In 2016, SGA President Jason Maulucci and Vice President Tyler Davis ran unopposed in their election suggesting there is a lack of student investment in Student Government or apathy amongst students about Student Government.

We would like to propose two non-SGA position on the Diversity Curriculum Review Committee to ensure that a diverse group, as well as a more representative group, of students are participating in the conversation about curriculum. For this year, starting after this resolution is passed, we would like the Diversity Requirement Review Committee to appoint two members from our organizing group, Emily Grace Arriviello and Starrkeisha Cobb, to be full time members of the DCRC. Emily Grace and Starr would be responsible for working with SGA appointed students to create the criteria for choosing student representatives in the event that they graduate or have to step down from the DCRC during their time at UVM. Some criteria that would be considered to choose candidates include:

- Junior or Senior standing.
- Completion of 2 semesters of Diversity Courses in both D1: Race and Racism in the US and D2: Non-European Cultures categories.
- Available time to attend all DCRC meetings.
- A willingness and ability to hold student forums to gage student experience in D1/D2 classes.
We would also like to work with current DCRC members to understand their thoughts of what would qualify an acceptable student candidate to the DCRC. Our plan is to make this position well known to the student body by talking to identity based clubs such as Alianza Latinx, Black Student Union, Asian Student Union, Free2Be, Hillel, Muslim Student Association, and Womyn of Color Coalition. In reaching these identity-based clubs, we hope to reach students of color who are impacted by D1/D2 courses. We would also work with Beverly Colston at the Mosaic Center for Students of Color to advertise this position.

It is of vital importance that students have voting power on the DCRC. If students are ex-officio on the DCRC, they will not have voting power to change their curriculum, meaning, they will continue to have no power within their university to impact the curriculum they are being taught. For years, this administration has been told stories from students color about their experiences in D1/D2 classes resulting in no substantive change in their learning environment. We believe it is necessary to give students the power to impact their curriculum. If they are not given this right, students will continue to suffer in the classroom as well as continue to be exploited by the university for their trauma without any substantive changes happening on the ground level.

We look forward to working with the Diversity Requirement Review Committee in the future to improve the educational lives of students on this campus. Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Akilah Ho-young, Amanda Martinez, Angelica Crespo, Anwyn Darrow, Blaise Cureg, Cai Shapiro, Diana Allos, Eloho Obaro-Best, Emily Grace Arriviello, Harmony Edosomwan, Jordan Ciccone, Starrkeisha Cobb, and Z McCarron

The DCRC approved the resolution that was presented by the Student Government Association.

c. **General Education Curriculum Coordinating Committee.** The General Education Coordinating Committee continues to work on issues brought forward by general education on campus. Pablo will continue to update the DCRC on any progress.

III. **Transfer Credit Approvals.** There are four requests for this meeting. Two D1 and two D2. One D2 transfer was accepted, three were not approved. Pablo will communicate with the students.

I. **Special Topics and Gen-Ed Courses, Veronika Carter.** Special topics courses cause a lot of tracking for the Registrar’s Office. If a special top topics course is offered three times it should become a standard course. Special topics are to be strongly advised against going forward.

IV.

V. **New designation submissions**
   a. **D1**

   i. **War, Race and Identification.**
Scott Schaffer motioned to approve the proposal, Jonathan Sands seconded the motion.

Approve: 9  Oppose: 0  Abstain: 0

War, Race and Identification is approved D1 designation.

ii. Social Inequalities
Evan Eyler motioned to approve the proposal, Jonathan Sands seconded the motion.

Approve: 8  Oppose: 0  Abstain: 0

Social Inequalities is approved for D1 designation.

iii. Jazz in American Dance
Tao Sun motioned to approve the proposal, Scott Schaffer seconded the motion.

Approve: 8  Oppose: 0  Abstain: 0

Jazz in American Dance is approved for D1 designation.

b. D2
i. Global Deviance
Sue Kasser motioned to approve the proposal, Holly Busier seconded the motion.

Approve: 7  Oppose: 0  Abstain: 1

Global Deviance is approved for D2 designation.

ii. Foundations of Global Health
Scott Schaffer motioned to approve the proposal, Evan Eyler seconded the motion.

Approve: 8  Oppose: 0  Abstain: 0

Foundations of Global Health is approved for D2 designation.

iii. Islam and Human Rights
Jonathan Sands motioned to approve the proposal, Tao Sun seconded the motion.

Approve: 8  Oppose: 0  Abstain: 0

Islam and Human Rights is approved for D2 designation.

iv. **Oral Histories and Written Histories**
    There was no vote on this proposal. Chair Bose will contact the proposer for clarification.

VI. **Other Business.**
   a. **The Faculty Diversity Fellows Program.** This would be a great program however it cannot be coordinated by the DCRC.
   b. **Committee bylaws and mission statement.** The faculty senate office will email the committee.

**CHARGE OF THE DCRC**

The DCRC is responsible for the six-credit diversity requirement. The charge of the Diversity Curriculum Review Committee is to:

- develop, maintain and monitor the portfolio of academic courses and experiences in the Diversity Curriculum
- review and approve proposed diversity courses
- solicit proposals for courses that qualify for the designation of "Diversity Course" under categories D1 or D2
- maintain and implement a policy for review and approval of substitutions and alternatives to the diversity requirement on a case-by-case basis
- develop and oversee a mechanism for assessing outcomes of the diversity requirement
- maintain and implement a policy for periodic review of approved diversity courses, stipulating revisions as necessary
- propose suggested changes to the Diversity requirement, as necessary, to the Faculty Senate
- support and develop the faculty's capacity to offer diversity courses

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

The next meeting of the DCRC is scheduled for December 14, 2017 from 3:00-4:30 in 327 Waterman.
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