Sustainability Curriculum Review Committee
Of Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate
Minutes

September 18, 2017 8:30 – 10:00am
327 Waterman

Present: Eyal Amiel, Laura Hill, Simon Jorgensen, Laurie Kutner, Marilyn Lucas, Julia Perdrial, Kris Stepenuck, Ting Tan

Absent: Ann Hazelrigg, Mary Louise Kete, Julia Perdial

Guests:

Co-Chair Hill called the meeting to order at 8:37am in Waterman 327.

I. Approval of April Minutes
The minutes of May 16, 2017 were approved as written.

II. Chairs Report.

1. SU proposal solicitation. This process needs to be updated. Currently the website and CourseLeaf are not working together. This is an issue that SCRC members should advise their fellow faculty about. Unfortunately it is not an easy fix.

2. General Education Website. There is a need for a General Education Website for both students and faculty. Currently Sharon Haas is working on creating this website. It is targeted to be done in the next couple of months. Brian Reed is working closely with Sharon to ensure the right information is included.

3. SCRC Co-Chair. Eyal is on Parental leave, yet he will continue to co-chair with Laura this fall. Laura will be stepping down as of the end of the semester.

4. Special Topics Courses. As of fall 2018 no special topics courses will be approved by the Registrar’s Office.
   - Invite Veronika Carter to October meeting to discuss this topic.
III. **New SCRC shared drive tutorial.** Along with historical data, transfers, course lists and other SCRC data, the committee would like agenda, minutes and meeting materials housed in this drive. The committee had access to add to this drive however to delete files it will have to be requested through the Faculty Senate Office.

IV. **General Education Coordinating Committee.** Faculty President Paris presented a proposal to create a General Education Coordinating Committee that will be voted on by the senate in October.

*Draft, cp, 7 September 2017*

**UVM General Education Coordinating Committee**  
**The Mission and Purpose of UVM’s General Education Curriculum**  
The General Education Program reflects the faculty’s aspirations for all UVM undergraduates. General Education is the foundation of a transformative educational experience that prepares students to become accountable leaders who bring to their work dedication to the global community, a grasp of complexity, effective problem-solving and communication skills, and an enduring commitment to learning and ethical conduct. General Education courses transcend disciplinary boundaries; they help students develop integrated competencies that are essential to lifelong learning and responsible citizenship.

**Committee Description**

The UVM General Education Coordinating Committee (GECC) is a joint committee of the University of Vermont Faculty Senate and the Office of the Provost. Its purpose is to coordinate the activities, policies, and processes of the individual General Education Committees (currently Diversity, First-Year Writing and Information Literacy, Quantitative Reasoning, and Sustainability), bringing to the delivery of the General Education curriculum increased clarity, consistency, and efficiency. Following the formal establishment of the GECC, the individual General Education Curriculum Committees will no longer be standing subcommittees of the Senate Curricular Affairs Committee, but rather will report directly to the GECC, to which they will be responsible.

**Structure**

GECC membership includes the chairs/co-chairs of the individual General Education Curriculum Committees, the Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning, and the Faculty Senate President. The committee chair will be appointed by the President of the Faculty Senate.

Various other faculty members and University officers with particular expertise will from time to time be asked to meet with the GECC. Examples include the Registrar, the Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Chair of the Senate Curricular Affairs Committee, the Provost’s Faculty Fellow for Assessment, and the Assistant Provost.
Functions

The first priority of the GECC is to work out the individual General Education Curriculum Committees’ policies and processes and bring them into alignment with one another. Other functions include:

- establishing and maintaining a visible, informative, and compelling web presence for the General Education curriculum
- developing operating procedures for new General Education requirements
- participating in the development of a plan for ongoing, regular assessment of the General Education Program and its identified student learning outcomes
- developing a plan for insuring portability of General Education courses among academic units
- advocating for the role of General Education in the academic life of the University
- determining the resources necessary for the oversight and coordination of, and communication about the UVM General Education Program and making recommendations to ensure adequate funding.

Meeting Schedule

The committee will typically meet on a monthly basis during the academic year, but the meetings may be more or less frequent as deemed necessary for the business at hand.

V. Retroactive approval. If faculty want their course to be applied to currently enrolled students as meeting the SU requirement, faculty must follow these instruction from the Registrar’s Office.

1. Request that your department (or Dean’s Office) submit a course change request via CourseLeaf to have the SU designation added.
2. In the Comment area, indicate whether retroactive approval is being requested and how far back.
3. Attach the course syllabus the SCRC used for approval.
4. Note if there are plans to offer it in the spring and summer.

VI. Course Review

1. NR 195 (Foundations of Sustainability)
   The committee did not vote on the proposal at this time. The proposal will be sent back to the proposer with the appropriate comments and suggestions.

2. HCOL 185G (Plant Invasion)
   Laura Hill motioned to approve the proposal, Tin Tag seconded the motion.
HCOL 185G (Plant Invasion) is approved.

3. **HCOL 185D (Integrated Challenges of Biological Invasions)**
   Laura Hill motioned to approve the proposal, Eyal Amiel seconded the motion.

   Approve: 7   Oppose 0   Abstain 0

   HCOL 185D (Integrated Challenges of Biological Invasions) is approved.

VII. **Other Business:**

1. **Office of Sustainability.** Though the Office of Sustainability does not support Sustainability Curriculum there is interest in working with SCRC on experiential ways for students to achieve the SU requirement. The Office of Sustainability has funds that could help with these efforts. Chair Hill encourages members of the SCRC to talk with fellow faculty members about ideas providing more experiential opportunities to students.

2. **Faculty Fellows.** This academic year the SCRC should continue to work closely with the Faculty Fellows.

The meeting adjourned at 10:02am

The **next meeting will be on October 17, 2017 from 8:30-10:00 in 327 Waterman**