

## **Transformational Change Working Group**

Monday, February 9, 2009

2:00 – 3:30 pm.

Grace Coolidge, 501 Waterman

**PRESENT:** Bob Taylor, David Barrington, Lynne Bond, Jim Burgmeier, Patty Corcoran, Daniel Mark Fogel, Domenico Grasso, Susan Harrington, Sharon Henry, Clinton Jaspersen, Stephanie Kaza, Chris Lucier, Kathy Manning, Eleanor Miller, Berth Mintz, David Neiweem, Rodney Parsons, Julia Russell, Mara Saule, Sherwood Smith, Sondra Solomon, Jill Tarule, Steele Taylor, Thomas Vogelmann

**ABSENT:** Sha Bradley, Richard Galbraith, Michael Gurdon, Annie Stevens

**STAFF PRESENT:** Gary Derr, Catherine Symans

After introductions, Chair Bob Taylor informed the group that this first meeting of the Transformational Change working group was to receive its charge from President Fogel. The President reviewed the task of the working group which was outlined in his February 4<sup>th</sup> memo to the group. The following questions and issues were addressed:

- Any recommendations that come out of the group would move through regular university governance channels, including the Faculty Senate.
- No more than 3 models, including our current model, with pros and cons are requested by the President.
- Although it is obviously desirable for any possible reorganization to reduce costs, the overarching concerns of this working group are to be educational, scholarly, and administrative.
- The group is welcome to develop a problem statement to define the work of the committee as precisely as possible.
- Three types of issues are of concern: 1) student success and satisfaction measured by retention of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students and graduation rates; 2) strengthening our academic standing; and 3) efficiencies of curriculum, scholarship and administration.
- The task of the group is fundamentally analytical and the overall task is to think about the most likely consequences of the different models considered.

Chair Taylor outlined his job:

- To help foster a meaningful, fruitful conversation
- To keep the work of the committee moving along as efficiently as possible
- To assume a leading role in crafting a final report of the group

Chair Taylor suggested that it might be helpful to divide the work of the group into a number of issues that could initially be addressed by four sub-committees (prior to coming together again as a full working group). After a brief discussion it was decided to have at least one more meeting of the whole to discuss our precise understanding of the problems before us, and develop a clear plan for thinking about how these problems might be addressed.

Links for resources will be added to the Transformational Change website:

<http://www.uvm.edu/president/transform> A listserv is also available: [transform@list.uvm.edu](mailto:transform@list.uvm.edu)

**Next meeting:** Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. in 427A Waterman