The
UNIVERSITY
of VERMONT

FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council
August 21, 2023, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
Minutes

Present: Professors Borchert (President), Eyler (VP), Allen (at large), Bonifield (PSC), deRosset (at large), Everse (CAC), Gove (SAC), Julianelle (at large), Kervick (CAC), Pope (at large), Read (ERTC), Rodriguez (FPPC)
Absent: Professor Prue (SAC), Vacant (RSCA)

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM on Microsoft Teams

1. **Minutes** of the May 2023 meeting were approved as written.

2. **Chair's Remarks –** Thomas Borchert made the following remarks:
   - Welcome to new members, Steve Gove, Lizzy Pope, and Ken Allen.
   - Currently in search of chair of RSCA to fill-in during Jen Hurley's medical leave.
   - The recommendations made by the Faculty Senate Executive Council after reviewing the bias response team process were incorporated into the report submitted to U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR.) The OCR has acknowledged receipt of the report. As outlined in the resolution passed by the Senate on the University's response to the OCR investigation, President Borchert delivered the resolution to the members of the UVM Board of Trustees and received confirmation of receipt on August 2nd.
   - The Executive Council will participate in the Academic Planning Committee meeting on Sept 11, 1:00-3:00 pm.
   - The Provost has proposed an overall focus on planetary health for the university research agenda.

3. **Degree Corrections –** Laurie Eddy presented degree corrections requested by CAS, CALS, RSENR and the Graduate College.
   **Motion**: Colby Kervick moved to approve the degree corrections requested. The motion was seconded. Thomas Borchert provided additional information regarding the request from the Graduate College for Powers.
   Vote: 9 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. The motion carried.

4. **Procedure Review (committees, EC)** – Thomas Borchert and Laurie Eddy provided an overview of the general operating procedures for the Senate standing committees and the Executive Council. Responsibilities of the chair/co-chair include:
   - creating the agenda for distribution one-week prior to the meeting,
   - reporting committee actions to the Executive Council
   - reviewing minutes prior to distribution to the committee
   - committee members are non-voting members of the Faculty Senate and encouraged to attend Senate meetings
   - committee chairs are voting members of the Faculty Senate and the Executive Council. Co-chairs are both encouraged to attend the Faculty Senate and Executive Council meetings, but receive only one vote.

The workflow from committees to the Executive Council and the Faculty Senate:
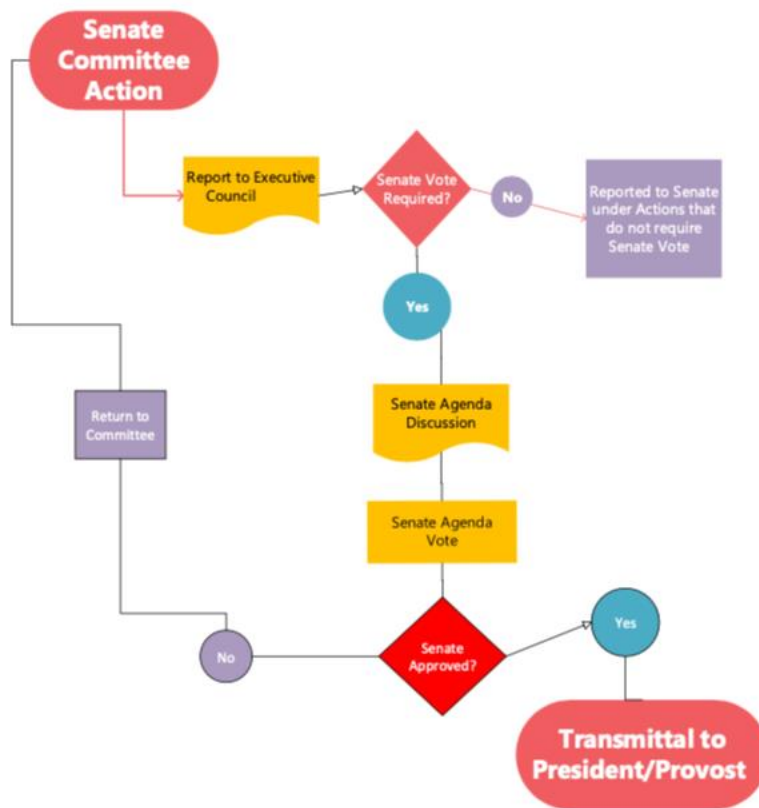
5. **Goals for 2023-2024 –** Tom Borchert highlighted the following goals and activities:
   - Proposal for co-major credential
   - Proposal for Water Institute and Proposal for Center for Rural Studies
   - Catamount Core Committee transition to Senate standing committee (bylaws change required)
   - Transition the Senate DEI committee to a standing committee (bylaws change required)
   - Conversations with Amer Ahmed about the Inclusive Excellence Plan

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Working Group established with representation from WID, Center for Student Conduct and members of three Senate Standing Committees. Goal is to provide guidance for addressing AI matters in teaching and research.
- Open Access and Open Science - Tom Borchert is working with Libraries Dean Geffert and Acting Director of the Gund Institute Meredith Niles, who has expertise in the area of open access, to develop mechanisms for documenting, promoting, and incorporating open access into RPT practices.

Chairs of the Senate standing committees reported the following goals and activities:

CAC: Colby Kervick and Stephen Everse reported that the CAC will be onboarding several new committee members. The new Associate Dean of the Graduate College, Alicia Ebert will be working with the CAC. The CAC will be reviewing the proposal for the new co-major credential at their first meeting in September, and if the credential is approved by the Senate, the CAC expects to see proposals for co-majors. The new 8-year cycle for APRs started last spring, and the CAC expects a robust schedule of APR work. The CAC anticipates a workflow that is more responsive to units because of the new timeframe approved in spring for 15-day circulation.

ERTC: Helen Read reported that the ERTC expects to be involved in the national search for a new CIO. The ERTC anticipates that they will be working on a policy for computer life cycle for faculty/staff and will be exploring ways to encourage faculty to use UVM supported platforms. In addition, the ERTC may be involved in the initiate to rewrite and update UVM's information security policy.

FPPC – Guillermo Rodriguez reported that two objectives this year are to examine the impact of tuition freeze on student experience (i.e., impacts on units such as the Career Center, and the Mosaic Center), and the budgetary challenges in pursuit of RI status. In addition, they may look at potential improvements to the space algorithm in the IBB model.

PSC – Carolyn Bonifield stated that during the fall semester, the PSC reviews sabbatical applications and in the spring, their attention turns to evaluating RPT cases.

RSCA – Thomas Borchert stated that the RSCA will be responsible for reviewing the proposals for institutes that come to the Senate.

SAC – Steve Gove reported that the SAC will be following-up on OCR implications for policy, looking at trends in student enrollment and the implications of DEI rulings. The SAC will be working on a policy for outside of class time requirements. Jay Jacobs will be speaking to the SAC about impacts of the Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action and the FAFSA changes.

6. **Co-Major Credential Proposal Discussion –** Colby Kervick provided an overview of the proposal and the background on how the proposal to establish a new credential called a co-major was developed. The goal is to reduce barriers for undergraduate students who want to pursue two majors in different degree-granting units (i.e., schools/colleges), without having to do two separate sets of degree requirements. Students must successfully complete a major in their degree-granting unit to graduate with a co-major in another unit. Students may not do a co-major offered by their degree-granting unit. The proposal is currently in the 15-day circulation for comment and will be on the agenda for the August

Senate meeting for discussion. It is anticipated that the final details and guidelines around the routing process for proposals (will proposals for co-majors require CAC approval only? Senate approval? Or need to go to the BOT approval?) will be finalized prior to the CAC vote on the proposal at the September 7th meeting. A vote on the credential by the Faculty Senate is anticipated in September or October, with the goal of Board of Trustees approval in February 2024.

7. **P & P meetings with Executive Council – (Thursday, Aug 24, 10:00-10:45)**
   Suggested topics for discussion at future meetings included:
   - Review of procedures for BERT and procedures for procedures
   - Report on UVM GO experiences.
   - Discussion of work/structure PACE
   - Planetary Health Research focus project
   - Graduate Education plan/framework

   The agenda topic for the August 24th meeting will be campus safety and Student Safety in Burlington.

8. **Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting (Monday, August 28, 4:00-5:30 PM, Ifshin Hall)**
   Thomas Borchert presented the following draft agenda.
   Motion: Evan Eyler moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

4:00	1. Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks – Thomas Borchert
4:05	2. Consent Agenda (vote) a. Minutes of the May 2023 Faculty Senate Meeting
4:10	3. Degree Conferrals (vote)
4:15	4. Senate Orientation – Committee Chairs introduction
4:35	5. Upcoming Senate work
4:45	6. Co-Major credential (discussion)
5:00	7. Eclipse events discussion (tentative)
5:15	8. New Business
5:30	9. Adjourn

9. **New Business** – none at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM

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