



FACULTY SENATE

Financial & Physical Planning Committee

December 4, 2023, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Present: Thomas Borchert (Faculty Senate President), Chloe Elkort (SGA), Evan Eyler (FS VP), Dan DeSanto (LIB), David Kaufman (RSNER), Jane Knodell (CAS), Lisa McGee (LCOM), Maureen Neumann (CESS), Guillermo Rodriguez (CAS), Andrey Ukhov (GSB), Beth Zigmund (LCOM)

Absent: Pending (CALS), Greg Rowangould (CEMS), Krista Shea (CNHS), Pending (GSS)

Guests: Richard Cate, Kirk Dombrowski

The meeting was called to order by Chair Guillermo Rodriguez at 2:00pm via Microsoft Teams.

1. **Approval of the November Minutes.** The minutes of November 2023 were approved as written.
2. **Chair Update.** There was no chair update at this meeting.
3. **VPR Update, Kirk Dombrowski.** Kirk gave the committee an overview on how the OVPR and SPA work and changes that were made to help achieve R1 status. The process of getting R1 status has changed, however UVM will be awarded R1 status. To listen to the conversation please e-mail the Faculty Senate Office at facsen@uvm.edu. Some of the questions the committee had included.
 - Stipends are low and cost of living high so students don't feel like they can live here, what are they doing to help this? This is more of a Graduate College question; Kirk will pass this on to the new dean.
 - Cancelling classes that don't allow students to finish due to not having enough students to make it profitable and how they have impacted programs.
 - What opportunities does being an R1 university open to the University of Vermont?
 - What do other universities do and are you looking at these to help promote research at UVM?
 - Open access publishing and the cost to faculty.
 - There is not an automatic increase of budget when you get R1, however it puts the University of Vermont into a new category to have more opportunities.
 - Planetary Health, and how the Provost is working with the OVPR around this topic.
4. **Questions for Richard Cate for the Faculty Senate Meeting.** Richard Cate will be presenting at the December Faculty Senate meeting, the bylaws of the senate state that once a year the VP of Finance will give the Faculty Senate an update on the university finances. Thomas Borchert asked the committee to come up with some questions to ask Richard.
 - Tuition update and what is the goal of the Vermont in-state tuition freeze?
 - Data on graduate students around housing and living expenses on current stipend.

- How is R1 status going to help with the financial health of the university?
- Undergraduate housing and lack of campus housing.
- Retiree's health insurance changes and what is the cost savings?

5. New / Old Business. The FPPC would like to look more into the differences between the University of Vermont and the UVMMC health insurance and the best ways in lower costs.

6. Adjourn. The committee adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.

The next FPPC meeting will be January 8, 2024, from 2:00 to 3:30 on Teams.