



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Special Meeting
Wednesday, May 8, 2024
4:00 – 5:30 PM, on Microsoft Teams

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President, Thomas Borchert at 4:00 PM

This special meeting of the Faculty Senate was requested by two Senators, Bridget Levine-West and Ignacio Lopez-Vicuna and with the support of the Executive Council at its May 6, 2024, meeting. It is being called under section 4.3 Special Meetings of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Faculty Senate. Attendance was not taken. The meeting was not recorded. No motions or actions were taken at this meeting. If desired, Senators will have the opportunity to make a statement or action at the regularly scheduled Senate meeting on May 16, 2024, in Memorial Lounge, Waterman, 3:00-4:30.

- I. Opening and Introduction: Faculty Senate President, Thomas Borchert, outlined the rationale for the special meeting.

On Sunday, April 28, a group of UVM students put up an encampment on the Harris Commons outside the Davis Center to protest the ongoing situation in Israel and Gaza, and in particular UVM's possible participation through its endowment and the commencement speaker. This encampment has been similar to those of students on university campuses around the country. It has largely been peaceful and contained. The UVM administration has been closely monitoring the encampment and has also stated that it is out of compliance with University policies.

It is the purpose of this meeting to provide Senators the opportunity to learn more about what has been happening outside of the scope of a normal Senate meeting.

- II. Discussion of Policy and Policy Infractions – Thomas Borchert provided an overview of the following policies:
Facilities and Grounds Use for Events and Activities: <https://legacy.drupal2.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/UVM-Policies/policies/facsched.pdf?t=scetqw>
Temporary Structures: https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/UVM-Policies/policies/temp_structure.pdf
- III. University actions around safety - Michael Schirling, Director of Safety and Compliance, provided information about the actions taken by his office.

- IV. Student Conduct Process - David Nestor, Dean of Students, provided information on about the student conduct process.

- V. Free Speech and Peaceful Protest Statements - Keith Burt, Senator from Psychological Sciences, spoke about academic freedom concerns and shared following AAUP statements on Rights and Freedoms of Students, and In Defense of the Right to Free Speech and Peaceful Protest on University Campuses.
<https://www.aaup.org/report/joint-statement-rights-and-freedoms-students>
<https://www.aaup.org/media-release/defense-right-free-speech-and-peaceful-protest-university-campuses>

- VI. The floor was opened for questions and discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM