



FACULTY SENATE

Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Committee

April 13, 2023

12:30-2:00

Microsoft Teams

Present: Thomas Borchert (FS President), Evan Eyler (Faculty Senate Vice President), Brendan Fisher (RSENr), Jennifer Hurley (CESS), Jill Preston (CALs), Christie Silkotch (LIB), Daniel Weiss (LCoM), Chun Zhang (GSB)  
Absent: Mildred Betre (CAS, Fine Arts), Vacant (CAS), Mary Cushman (LCoM), Bikki Trans-Smith (CNHS), Pending (Postdoctoral Association), Pending (CAS), Pending (GSS), Pending (SGA)  
Guests: Kirk Dombrowski, Dan Harvey

Co-chair Jill Preston called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm via Microsoft Teams.

**1. Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes of the March 2023 meeting were approved as written.

**2. Helios Resolution.**

**Resolution on Open Access and Open Science**

Approved by the Faculty Senate Research, Scholarship, and the Creative Arts Committee (RSCA)  
April 13, 2023

Whereas the University of Vermont is a land grant institution whose mission is to “create, evaluate, share, and apply knowledge” (<https://www.uvm.edu/mission-and-vision>); and

Whereas “Our Common Ground” calls on members of the University community to abide by the values of Innovation which calls for us to “address important community and society needs,” and Openness which calls for the “open exchange of information and ideas” (<https://www.uvm.edu/president/our-common-ground>); and

Whereas the free exchange of research and scholarly information is also a matter of equity and consistent with the values of Our Common Ground; and

Whereas the University of Vermont is a member of the Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship (HELIOS), “a cohort of colleges and universities committed to collective action to advance open scholarship within and across campuses...to promote a more transparent, inclusive, and trustworthy research ecosystem” (<https://www.heliosopen.org/>); and

Whereas the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy has changed guidelines requiring that federally funded research be made publicly available (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/08/25/ostp-issues-guidance-to-make-federally-funded-research-freely-available-without-delay/>)

Therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate calls on the different colleges and schools of the University to develop policies and procedures promoting open access sharing of scholarly output by:

Educating faculty and students to promote literacy on the importance of open access publishing and open science and facilitating faculty participation in open access and open science practices; and

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate calls on colleges, schools and departments of the University to review their incentive structures in hiring, reappointment, promotion, and tenure to ensure alignment with open scholarship requirements of major research funders and acknowledge the value added in each discipline through open access publishing, open science, and/or other openly available products of scholarship; and

The Faculty Senate calls on the administration of the University of Vermont to encourage open access and open science practices by providing institutional resources to this end and supporting departmental review and development of incentive structures; and

The Faculty Senate calls on individual members of the faculty to incorporate open access principles into regular practice, as for example by depositing preprint or postprint publications, as permitted by author agreements, and other work into open access repositories at no cost such as that of the University of Vermont Libraries or by writing open access funds into grants where appropriate.

**Motion:** President Borchert moved to approve the Resolution on Open Access and Open Science seconded by Daniel Weiss.

**Vote: 8 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. The motion carried.**

**3. Academic Freedom Policy Update.** To see the updated policy please visit the senate website:

[https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Faculty-Senate/Academic Freedom RSCA Approved Revisions April 23.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Faculty-Senate/Academic%20Freedom%20RSCA%20Approved%20Revisions%20April%2023.pdf)

**Motion:** President Borchert moved to approve the Academic Freedom Policy Update seconded by Jill Preston.

**Vote: 8 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. The motion carried.**

Thomas will discuss the policy and changes at the April Senate meeting, he will include the track changes for the senators to review. In May when the policy goes to the senate for a vote, he will remove all the track changes.

#### **4. OVPR Update, Kirk Dombrowski.**

- **Expanding Research Support Infrastructure.** OVPR F & A has moved from 5% to 10% and it has allowed to expand the structure with SPA 2.0. This created better training and more uniform services. All units minus LCOM have opted in and results have been successful. LCOM is showing an interest in SPA 2.0. This is probably the biggest change to the university in the last three years. Some issue they have faced include how to make pay line up to the level of service the SPA staff deserves, the other issue is they aren't getting applicants unless they are offering remote work options.
- NSF funding for UVM is extremely low. The big piece is that there are unsupported and underfunded STEM programs.
- **New research institutes.**
  - The Cairo Project is working on starting a Water Institute. That is being directed by Beverly Wemple and it has anchor funding of 3 to 4 million dollars a year, they are hopeful to also get some endowment funding.
  - The Provost has brought in the Osher Grant, they are still working on how that will work.
  - The VACC has been upgraded to center status.
  - They are currently setting up a system to review and are using the GUND as a test case.
  - Institute for Rural Partnerships, currently Kirk is the director until a new director can be hired.
- **R1 process update.** FY23 will be counted but won't know if it worked for almost 2 years, it is predicted they are up 26 % in Stem and 30% in non-stem expenditures. They will also be up 30% in PHDs they are producing. The biggest weak point is in humanities PHDs. It is hopeful they will achieve R1 status. How could the university incentivize research and what is the RSCA's role in this? President Borchert suggested bringing this back to the RSCA and to the FPPC.

**5. Old / New Business.** There was no old / new business discussed at this meeting.

**6. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

The next meeting of the RSCA will take place on Thursday, May 11th at 12:30 on Teams.