



FACULTY SENATE

Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Committee
February 9, 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), Bikki Trans-Smith (CNHS), Daniel Weiss (LCOM)

Absent: Raju Badireddy (CEMS), Mildred Betre (CAS, Fine Arts), Vacant (CAS), Bikki
Trans-Smith (CNHS), Mary Cushman (LCOM), Chun Zhang (GSB), Pending
(Postdoctoral Association), Pending (CAS), Pending (GSS), Pending (SGA)

Guests: Kendall Fortney, Trent Klingerman

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 January 2023 meeting were approved as written.
2. **VERSO Update,** Kendall Fortney. For the full presentation please e-mail the Faculty Senate Office at Facsen@uvm.edu.

VERSO

UVM Open Source Program Office, Kendall Fortney VERSO Program Director

What is VERSO?

The VERmont ReSearch Open Source Program Office (VERSON) is an pilot project at the University of Vermont to build an open community through engagements, educational activities, fellowships, research and community collaboration. Visit the VERSO website at <https://verso.w3.uvm.edu/>.

Why Choose Open

- **Peer review**- Because work is freely accessible and the community is very active, results is actively checked and improved upon by peers.
- **Transparency**- Open work allows you to check and track that for yourself, without having to rely on vendor promises.
- **Reliability**- Open work outlives its original authors because it is constantly updated through active communities.
- **Flexibility**- You can use open work to address problems that are unique to community and you can rely on community help when you implement new solutions.
- **Open collaboration**- The existence of active open communities means that you can find help, resources, and perspectives that reach beyond one interest group.

Doing Open Science is F.A.I.R:

- Findability
- Accessibility
- Interoperability
- Reuse

Create an Idea:

- Review Open Journals
- Search for Open Journals
- Use Open Source tools for initial exploration

Get Funded:

- Grant Templating
- Open Science Profile Management
- Guidance on project design to be open

Do Work:

- Create, use and grow Open Source research tools
- Add or create open communities
- Use best practices including codes of conduct

Publish:

- Release Preprint
- Publish in open journals
- Use open peer review
- Release research data publicly
- Create code repos for research analysis
- Build open communities
- Use open licensing

And then?

- Ensure all documentation is complete
- Identify community leaders to take on the next stage

- Determine if all assets that are needed are actually published
- Q&A Date and Metadata

Projects:

- Open Science Analytics
- Open Source Journal Software
- GIS Open Data Portal
- Dataverse Open Data Portal
- Consulting on Research Projects
- Open Work Workshop

For questions or comments please reach out to Kendall at kendall.forney@uvm.edu.

3. Academic Freedom Policy, Trent Klingerman

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The Faculty Senate adopted the following statement on academic freedom on September 23, 1954 and was approved by the Board of Trustees on October 16, 1954 and revised and adopted by the Faculty Senate on November 20, 2008 and approved by the Board of Trustees on February 7, 2009:

Academic Freedom and Responsibility

We, the faculty of The University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, in the spirit and tradition of free universities throughout the world, are agreed upon the following statement of principles on academic freedom and responsibility. We believe that incorporation of these principles into the organization of The University of Vermont and State Agricultural College will re-emphasize the importance of academic freedom to the basic health of the University, and also serve as a statement of policy on the rights and responsibilities of faculty members at this institution. It has been our intent to state these principles in terms broad enough so that they may be valid not only in these critical times when academic freedom and personal liberty are in jeopardy both at home and abroad, but also in the future insofar as the future can be foreseen.

The Necessity of Academic Freedom in Higher Education

The main purpose of a university has always been, must always be, to stimulate the thinking and the creative powers of its students and its faculty. As an institution it deals in ideas, not only old and accepted ones but new ones that may be full of explosive power. If they are explosive, they are bound to be disconcerting, even painful, to some on the campus and to many beyond its borders. Inevitably they will be called dangerous by the timid and short-sighted, but to those who really believe in the fruitfulness of human thought, the real danger would appear only if the flow of such ideas should cease. For then indeed sterility would have taken over our campus. Our faculty would no longer deserve the name of intellectuals and our students, regardless of degrees attained, could no longer claim to be educated. They would leave our campus accustomed only to the commonplace, satisfied with the mediocre, ignorant or afraid of ideas which catch fire. Academic freedom is therefore not solely a right or privilege of the faculty but is the fulfillment of the obligation on the part of the university to provide an atmosphere in which intellectual growth may take place.

Academic Freedom and Special Responsibilities of Faculty Members

We subscribe to the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and the 1970 Interpretive Comments of the American Association of University Professors which provides:

- a. Faculty are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the university.
- b. Faculty are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject. The intent of this statement is not to discourage what is “controversial.” Controversy is at the heart of the free academic inquiry which the entire statement is designed to foster. Instruction may occur in an atmosphere of controversy so long as what is taught is placed in an appropriate context, is germane to the subject of the class, as determined by the faculty member and consistent with disciplinary standards, and assists students in mastering or appreciating the significance of the subject.
- c. Faculty are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of the university. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence, they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the university.

We also subscribe to the 2014 report of the American Association of University Professors on Academic Freedom and Electronic Communication which provides:

- a. Academic freedom, free inquiry, and freedom of expression within the academic community may be limited to no greater extent in electronic format than they are in print, save for the most unusual situation where the very nature of the medium itself might warrant unusual restrictions.

In addition, there are recognized qualifications which must be attained and maintained before the privilege of being a member of the academic profession can be considered a permanent one: satisfactory performance as a teacher, scholarship, and high moral standards.

Responsibility of the Institution to the Faculty

The University must defend tenaciously the right of its members to think and express their thoughts freely and to make those choices within the law guaranteed to every citizen. This includes the right of dissent since any democratic institution ceases to merit the name democratic when this fundamental right is denied. Never is this duty more imperative than in those unhappy times when the public opinion of the community would restrain or curtail the free play of ideas. The universities, whose roots extend back into the centuries, have a tradition and duty to maintain an independence of judgment in the face of public opinion.

Academic Freedom and Tenure

Tenure is an indispensable pre-condition for academic freedom. It is, in fact, a guarantee that the institution subscribes to the principle of academic freedom, and that its members may not be dismissed

Commented [A1]: Addition from the AAUP 1970 interpretative comment.

Commented [A2]: From the 2014 AAUP report on Academic Freedom and Electronic Communications.

without adequate cause. Termination of tenure should occur only in cases of bona fide financial exigency in the University or when it has been demonstrated that the teacher lacks professional or moral fitness or competence as a teacher.

In the interpretation and the application of these principles we shall expect the University authorities to be quick to protect its heritage of academic freedom, in doubtful cases remembering that an excess of freedom is always less dangerous than an excess of constraint.

Thomas Borchert will take this draft to the administration, if there are no objections it will be placed on the March RSCA agenda for a vote and if approved will be sent to the Faculty Senate for consideration.

4. Helios Resolution.

- Whereas it is right to make scholarly output widely accessible and,
- Whereas availability of research and scholarly information is a matter of equity and,
- Whereas is consistent with UVM as a land grant institution, the academic community and general public in Vermont, the US and around the world have a right to access information freely,

The Faculty Senate calls on UVM Colleges to develop policies promoting open access sharing of scholarly output by:

- Educating faculty and students to promote literacy on importance of open access publishing and open science
- Providing assistance to faculty in finding routes to open access practices.

Thomas and Jill will come up with a final draft and share it before the next meeting for a vote.

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, March 9th at 12:30 on Teams.