



FACULTY SENATE

Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Committee

March 9, 2023

12:30-2:00

Microsoft Teams

- Present: Thomas Borchert (FS President), Evan Eyler (Faculty Senate Vice President), Brendan Fisher (RSEN), Jennifer Hurley (CESS), Jill Preston (CAL), Christie Silkotch (LIB), Daniel Weiss (LCOM)
- Absent: Mildred Betre (CAS, Fine Arts), Vacant (CAS), Mary Cushman (LCOM), Bikki Trans-Smith (CNHS), Chun Zhang (GSB), Pending (Postdoctoral Association), Pending (CAS), Pending (GSS), Pending (SGA)
- Guests: Ann Kroll Learner

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 February 2023 meeting were approved as written.
- 2. RSCA Chair Elections Update, Faculty Senate Office Staff.** The Faculty Senate Office will send out a call for nominations to serve as the RSCA chair / co-chair for the 2023 / 2024 academic year. Once the nomination period ends the Faculty Senate Office will hold an election.
- 3. Helios Resolution Update, Thomas Borchert.**

**Draft Resolution on Open Access for RSCA consideration, March 9, 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 providing assistance to faculty in finding routes to open access 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, tenure, promotion to ensure alignment with open scholarship requirements of major research funders and emerging disciplinary norms; and

the Faculty Senate calls on the administration of the University of Vermont to encourage this review and development of incentive structures in line with Open Access research; and

the Faculty Senate calls on individual members of the faculty to add open access practices to its regular practices, as for example by regularly depositing prepublication into open access repositories such as that of the University of Vermont Libraries or by writing open access funds into grants where appropriate.

The RSCA discussed the resolution, for a full transcript of the discussion please e-mail the Faculty Senate Office at [facsen@uvm.edu](mailto:facsen@uvm.edu).

Thomas will work with Christie to make a few small edits to the resolution. The new resolution will be circulated with the April RSCA materials for a vote. It will then move to the Faculty Senate for a discussion in April and potentially a vote in May.

- 4. Academic Freedom Policy, Thomas Borchert.** There have been no changes to the policy. The committee is encouraged to review the policy and send any concerns or questions to

Thomas before the next RSCA meeting. The policy will be on the April agenda for a vote. Once it is voted on at RSCA it will potentially move forward to the senate.

**5. FOUR Update, Ann Kroll Learner.**

- **Student Research Conference** will take place on April 19<sup>th</sup> and will be the first time it is fully in person since pre pandemic times. Registration is open until March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Summer Funding Opportunities**
  - **Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship** provides a stipend to students as well as research expenses for their work over the course of the summer, deadline is March 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Simon Fellowship and Simon Award** the Simon Fellowship is for a student that is engaged in community-based research, the deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Simon Award is written by a faculty member who is looking to advance their own community-based research or engagement and would like to utilize a student over the summer, the deadline is April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

For more information on FOUR please visit their website at <https://www.uvm.edu/four>.

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

**7. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

The next meeting of the RSCA will take place on Thursday, April 13th at 12:30 on Teams.