



FACULTY SENATE

Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Committee

May 11, 2023

12:30-2:00

Microsoft Teams

Present: Appala Raju Badireddy (CEMS), Thomas Borchert (FS President), Mary Cushman (LCOM), Evan Eyler (Faculty Senate Vice President), Brendan Fisher (RSENR), Jennifer Hurley (CESS), Christie Silkotch (LIB), Daniel Weiss (LCOM), Chun Zhang (GSB)

Absent: Mildred Beltre (CAS, Fine Arts), Vacant (CAS), Jill Preston (CALs), Bikki Trans-Smith (CNHS), Daniel Weiss (LCOM), Pending (Postdoctoral Association), Pending (CAS), Pending (GSS), Pending (SGA)

Guests: Beverly Wemple

Co-chair Mary Cushman called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm via Microsoft Teams.

- 1. Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes of the April 2023 meeting were approved as written.
- 2. Committee Update.** Jennifer Hurley will chair the RSCA for the 2023/ 2024 year, if anyone is interested in co-chairing, please reach out to the Faculty Senate Office. Mildred Beltre, Jill Preston, and Christie Silkotch have all completed their term and will not be continuing with the RSCA, chair Cushman thanked them for their service.
- 3. Water Institute, Beverly Wemple.**

Motivating the Conversation

- Shift in UVM's NSF EPSCoR focus
 - 20 years NSF EPSCoR Investment in water resources research at UVM contributing to new faculty hires, collaborative projects / publications, graduate student and postdoctoral scholar training, workforce development and community engagement.
- Award to UVM by NOAA for participation on Cooperative Institute for Research to Operations in Hydrology.
- Discussions around existing water research programs, they already have smaller water units embedded in RSNER.

What Might an Institute Enable:

- Venue for faculty engagement to complement our existing unit-level affiliations.
- Incubator for new, collaborative projects
- Institutional mechanism to lobby for or pursue special appropriations or targeted opportunities.
- Staff support for communications, amplification of research impact, facilitate policy outreach and operational or commercialization opportunities.

Campus Consultation:

- Faculty forums (49 faculty attended)
- Meeting with deans of CALS, CAS, CEMS, RSENR
- Dr. Anne Jefferson, RSENR 9director LCSG and VT-NIWR)
- CIROH project PIs

Proposed Institute Goals:

- Enhance the flow of information and ideas among UVM scholars and trainees by establishing a hub of water research at the nexus of natural and social studies, engineering, and governance.
- Educate the next generation of problem solvers on water issues and water justice.
- Coordinate existing and develop new water-related programs, equipment, facilities, and research services on campus.
- Build bridges with external academic, nonprofit, state, federal and international partners that accelerate the translation of research to practice.

Governance and Oversight

- Faculty steering committee
- Council of Partners

4. 2023 / 2024 Goals.

- Open Access and the next steps.
- Decolonizing research
- International Research

5. Old / New Business. Thomas is looking for an RSCA member to work with a senate working group on topics around ChatGPT. Thomas will reach out to find a representative.

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

The next meeting of the RSCA will take place on Thursday, September 14th at 12:30 on Teams.