



FACULTY SENATE

Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Committee

October 12, 2023

1:00-2:00

Microsoft Teams

Present: Appala Raju Badireddy (CEMS), Nolan Blessington (SGA) Thomas Borchert (FS President), Mary Cushman (LCOM), Evan Eyler (Faculty Senate Vice President), Paula Higa (CAS, Fine Arts), Aaron Nichols (LIB), Bikki Trans-Smith (CNHS), Daniel Weiss (LCOM), Chun Zhang (GSB).

Absent: Marieka Brouwer Burg (CAS), Brendan Fisher (RSENR), Vicki Brennan (CAS), Jennifer Hurley\*(CESS), Stephen Kellar (CALs), Pending (Postdoctoral Association), Pending (GSS),

Guests: Sara Helms Cahan, Dan Harvey, Beverly Wimple

Senate President Thomas Borchert called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm via Microsoft Teams.

- 1. Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes of the September 2023 meeting were approved as written.
- 2. Committee Update.** Evan and Thomas will work as co-chairs over the rest of the fall semester. Nolan Blessington is a new member to the RSCA representing the SGA. Jennifer Hurley will be back to chair for the spring semester.
- 3. Water Institute, Beverly Wemple.** Beverly came to the RSCA last May with a general presentation on the development of a water institute. This time there is a formal proposal that will be distributed to the campus. Beverly presented a slide deck showing the need, development, and support for the water institute. To receive the slides or get access to the presentation please e-mail that Faculty Senate Office at [facsec@uvm.edu](mailto:facsec@uvm.edu).

Some of the concerns and questions the committee had included:

- How is the work different than what is being done at the GUND Institute and why would having a separate institute be beneficial. Beverly stated that the GUND institute has done a great job casting a huge net, but it can't be everything for everyone. There will be interactions between the two institutes.

- Internal education aspects are about taking the capacity that they have so far and taking it to the next level, creating an institutional structure to take the considerable strength they have across the university and finding a way to coordinate it and create a hub for it.
- Water in health care and connecting water contamination and quality with health outcomes. How can this be incorporated into the Water Institute. Potentially reaching out to Jan Carney in LCOM who works with public health.

The RSCA will vote on the Water Institute proposal at the November meeting. Thomas and Evan will create a memo with the recommendation of the RSCA to present at the November Faculty Senate meeting for discussion. A vote will take place at the December Faculty Senate meeting. Thomas asked the committee to read the proposal again submit any questions or comments to him before the next RSCA meeting.

**4. Old / New Business.** There was no new business at this meeting.

**5. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm.

The next meeting of the RSCA will take place on Thursday, November 10th at 1:00pm on Teams.