

Report (2015/2016)

Research, Scholarship and the Creative Arts Committee UVM Faculty Senate May 5, 2016

Membership of the Committee:

The Committee membership included Dan Baker, Chris Burns (Chair), Kevin Chiang, Seth Fietze, Sharon Henry, Daniel Hudson, Beth Kirkpatrick, Tammy Kolbe, Jeffrey Marshall, David Neiweem, George Osol, Alice Schermerhorn, Brian Voigt, and Rory Waterman. In addition, many of the meetings were attended by the President of the Faculty Senate, Cathy Paris, the Vice President for Research, Richard Galbraith, and the Dean of the Graduate College Cindy Forehand.

The Committee met on 9 occasions, the first being September 17, 2014 and the last being May 19, 2015.

- **Scholarly Metrics:** The committee revisited our discussion of scholarly metrics from the previous year. Over the summer, Scholarly Productivity and Impact Metrics from across campus were posted on the Provost's website - <http://www.uvm.edu/provost/?Page=spim.html>. The Provost undertook an effort this fall to go through these metrics, looking for commonalities across units. RSCA reviewed and gave feedback on the Provost's memo to the campus about these commonalities. This document can also be found at the above link.
- **Faculty Awards and Recognition:** RSCA has continued to work on ideas for new awards/recognitions around scholarship, research, and student mentoring. We met with new Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Jim Vigoreau, and Amanda Waite from Communications at our February meeting to share some of our thoughts and hear some of the work that was going on in their offices. In response to this discussion, one change that was made is that Communications now has a self-submission form for faculty accolades - <http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmpr/?Page=accolade.html>.

Jim Vigoreaux, along with the OVPR and ETS, is working on an idea to create a faculty profile system. A key component of this is that it would make it easier to discover, both for internal and external audiences, the work that faculty do at UVM.

- **Graduate College:** Dean Cynthia Forehand updated RSCA on a number of Graduate College issues, including the sale of the Fort Ethan Allen housing, fair labor standards and postdoctoral appointments, graduate student health insurance and compliance with ACA, and particularly sought our feedback on FY17 graduate student health insurance and tuition scholarship levels. Dean Forehand reported that the Graduate College is considering an official designation of Graduate Student Employee (GSE) to define a specific set of requirements for graduate students supporting the teaching,

research and general functions of the university outside the GTA/GRA/GA categories. The reasoning is that departments and programs have need and cannot necessarily afford to add GTA/GRA positions that require a standard full tuition scholarship and minimum \$22-26 per hour stipend. The reason for formalizing the category would be to ensure a minimum salary and to ensure departments and programs do not use these temp wage positions as GTAs and GRAs at a lower level of support.

- **ScholarWorks@UVM:** Donna O'Malley gave an update to the committee on the progress of ScholarWorks, and a subsequent letter to all faculty was sent out requesting submissions of faculty scholarship to ScholarWorks. ScholarWorks @ UVM collects, preserves, and shares the scholarly and creative works of University of Vermont faculty, staff, students, and their collaborators. It serves as the institutional repository of the University and promotes discovery and research by providing open access to a wide range of digital resources created by the UVM community. ScholarWorks @ UVM is a service of the UVM Libraries.
- **Libraries Collection Management and Storage:** Selene Colburn and Laura Gewissler came to our March meeting to discuss the Library weeding project and gather feedback from committee members.
- **Office of the Vice President for Research:** Richard Galbraith attended our October meeting and gave an overview of the work that his office manages.
- **Burack Distinguished Lectures:** The committee reviewed nominations for this lecture series in the fall and the spring. The number of lectures available in this program was reduced this year from ten to five for each application period.
- **University Distinguished Professors:** The committee evaluated this year's nominations for University Distinguished Professor awards and made recommendations to the Provost's office.
- **University Manual:** Representing RSCA, Chris Burns was appointed to a committee charged with revising the section on Centers and Institutes in the University Manual. This group drafted revised language, which RSCA subsequently reviewed. The proposed revisions went to the Board of Trustees for approval at their February meeting. The major changes proposed include the elimination of Matrix Centers, increased flexibility in how the terms Centers and Institutes can be used, the elimination of the requirement that all Centers and Institutes be supported only by external funding, and a more formal codification of a review process for Centers and Institutes.
- **CEMS Restructure Review:** Representing RSCA, Chris Burns was appointed Chair of a committee charged with reviewing a proposal to restructure the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. The proposed restructuring would eliminate the School/Program structure for engineering and return to a departmental structure.

The committee carefully reviewed the proposal, especially the faculty feedback portion, and reported back in favor of the proposal.

- **Data Management:** Representing RSCA, Chris Burns was appointed to a committee chaired by Richard Galbraith and Mara Saule, charged with looking at data management issues at UVM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Burns
May 5, 2016