EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

A meeting of the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Friday, November 30, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. in the Livak Ballroom, 417-419 Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Martha Heath, Co-Vice Chairs Claire Ayer and John Snow, James Betts, Daniel Fogel, James Leddy, Ray Pecor, Beth Rice, and Donna Sweaney

TRUSTEES ALSO PRESENT: Carl Lisman, Board Chair

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Jeanette White

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Faculty Representatives Judy Cohen, Cindy Forehand and Dan Archdeacon; Staff Representative Tatjana Salcedo; Student Representatives Christopher Shackett and DaVaughn Vincent-Bryan

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Staff Representative Donna Panko; Alumni Representatives Janet Terp and Larry Williams

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Fred Curran, Director, Institutional Studies; David Dummit, Associate Vice President, Mathematics and Statistics; John M. Hughes, Senior Vice President and Provost; Christopher Lucier, Vice President for Enrollment Management; Frederick Morin, Dean of the College of Medicine; Michael Schultz, Associate Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations; Robert Vaughan, Director of Capital Management and Planning

Chair Martha Heath called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Committee Report Assignments

Chair Martha Heath assigned agenda items to each Committee member, giving those individuals the responsibility of reporting back to the entire Board of Trustees the outcome of their agenda item. Those assignments were as follows: Provost Report – John Snow, Curricular Affairs Committee Report – Beth Rice, Action Items – James Leddy, Williams and Flint Professorships – James Betts, Diversity Report – Claire Ayer, Capital Projects – Ray Pecor, and Strategic Planning – Martha Heath.

Acceptance of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and voted to accept the September 7, 2007 minutes.
Provost Report

Provost John Hughes gave a brief update on Fall 2008 applications that he reported are up 21% over last year. The Provost also updated the Committee on two important searches. First, the search for the Director of Writing in the Disciplines has been completed with the appointment of Dr. Susanmarie Harrington, Chair of the Department of English at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. Secondly, the search for the Dean of the Honors College was just announced. A search committee has been formed, chaired by Dr. Brian Reed, Acting Dean of the college of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Reports by the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee Chair

Curricular Affairs Committee Chair Cynthia Forehand reported on one new action item. As part of the proposal to establish a new Department of Asian Languages and Literatures in the College of Arts and Sciences, two majors were proposed and need to be acted on: a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese and a Bachelor of Arts in Japanese.

Dr. Forehand also reported that the Senate Curricular Affairs Committee approved a request to change the name of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology to Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences. The rationale for the requested change is a desire to reflect the growing research component in this department.

Action Items

Chair Heath presented the following resolutions for approval:

Resolution Approving a Policy to Award Conjoint Degrees

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the Conjoint Degree Policy as approved and advanced by the Faculty Senate on September 10, 2007, the Provost on September 19, 2007, and the President on September 21, 2007.

Resolution Approving a New Minor in Anthropology

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves a new minor in Anthropology that would replace three existing subfield specific minors, as approved and advanced by the Provost on October 5, 2007, and the President on October 10, 2007.

Resolution Approving a Name Change for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves changing the name of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology to the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, as approved and advanced by the Provost on November 2, 2007, and the President on November 7, 2007.
Resolution Approving the Creation of a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Chinese and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Japanese

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chinese and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Japanese, as approved and advanced by the Provost on November 14, 2007, and the President on November 16, 2007.

Resolution Approving the Naming of the Pole Barn at the Jericho Research Forest

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the naming of the pole barn at the Jericho Research Forest, which will henceforth be called the Forest E. Orr Conservation Center.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the resolutions for recommendation to the full Board.

Appointment and Introduction of Flint Professorship and Introduction of Williams Professorship

Dr. Domenico Grasso, Dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, provided a brief description of each of the professorships and followed up by citing the accomplishments of each of the recipients. Dean Grasso then introduced the recipients of two professorships, Dr. Kenneth Golden, recipient of the Williams Professorship of Mathematics, and Dr. Robert Jenkins, recipient of the Flint Professorship of Mathematics, Natural or Technic Science.

Review and Approval of Capital Projects

Terrill Hall Renovation (modified)
Robert Vaughan, Director of Capital Planning and Management, updated the Committee on a modification to the scope identified at the September meeting for the Terrill Hall Renovation being proposed simultaneously with the request to the BFI committee to move forward with this emergent need project. The administration proposes to increase the scope of the project from $2.0 million to $7.5 million. Along with the replacement of the HVAC components, new emergency power, exterior windows, plumbing, ADA door hardware, new ceilings and the expansion of the quantity of Animal Science laboratory facilities are also proposed for this project scope. These additional elements are requested for two considerations: the first is to address all of the future needs thereby eliminating the need to perform future phases of this project; the second consideration is the current capability to relocate all of the functions of the building into reasonable swing space facilities on campus. There are air quality issues and staff and faculty have already begun to move out. By completing all of the elements of the renovation in one encompassing scope, the staff and faculty will not be impacted with another disruptive relocation to temporary facilities in the near future. The Committee agreed with the urgency of the project but expressed concern about not being fully informed in advance of this request. The Committee members agreed to move the project forward.
The following resolution was put before the Committee to endorse:

**Terrill Hall Project**

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2007, the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee (EPIR) reviewed the program, scope, and preliminary estimate of $2,000,000 for the Terrill Hall HVAC Project; and

WHEREAS, on that date EPIR found the proposed Project to be an institutional priority, consistent with the *Strategic Capital Plan*, and worthy of further review; and

WHEREAS, on that date, EPIR endorsed the proposed Project and remitted it to the Budget, Finance, and Investment Committee for financial review and approval at its November 2007 meeting; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2007, the administration reported to EPIR about an expanded project, to henceforth be known as the Terrill Hall Renovation Project, to include not only the HVAC system upgrade, but also other mechanical, electrical, and structural system improvements, including the reconfiguration of the facility to accommodate research growth within the Animal Science department; and

WHEREAS, EPIR has accordingly received an updated preliminary estimate of $7,500,000 for the proposed project and continues to find it an institutional priority, consistent with the *Strategic Capital Plan*, and worthy of further review:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee hereby again endorses the project and again remits it to the Budget, Finance, and Investment Committee for financial review and approval.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted to approve the resolution for recommendation to the full Board (6-2).

**Given Courtyard Infill & Mechanical Systems Upgrade (modified)**

Director of Capital Planning and Management Vaughan again updated the Committee on a modification to the scope identified to the EPIR Committee at the September meeting of the Board. The administration is proposing to increase the scope of the project from $14.5 million to $17.0 million. Relocating office activities currently residing in the Given Building into the Courtyard will allow the reclaiming of approximately 10,000 square feet of wet laboratory space with a $2.5 million investment. This space will allow for recruitment and decompression resulting in increased funding of basic science research. The expected outcome is a substantial increase in research funding. While this investment was identified as a future benefit, the cost of the renovation was not included in the original estimate. The Committee again expressed concern about not being fully informed of the total cost of the project. Dr. Frederick Morin, Dean of the College of Medicine, explained the timing of this request was tied into NIH matching funds. The Committee amended the motion to approve the project moving forward “with the understanding that the additional funds are being raised through philanthropy.”
The following resolution was put before the Committee to endorse:

**Given Courtyard and Mechanical Systems Upgrade Project**

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2007, the Board of Trustees’ Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee (EPIR) reviewed the program, scope, and preliminary estimate of $14,500,000 for the Given Courtyard and Mechanical Systems Upgrade Project; and

WHEREAS, on that date EPIR found the proposed Project to be an institutional priority, consistent with the *Strategic Capital Plan*, and worthy of further review; and

WHEREAS, on that date, EPIR endorsed the proposed Project and remitted it to the Budget, Finance, and Investment Committee for financial review and approval at its November 2007 meeting; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2007, the administration reported to EPIR about an expanded project to include not only the Given Courtyard Infill and the Mechanical Systems Upgrade, but also other backfill laboratory renovations in the Given Building; and

WHEREAS, EPIR has accordingly received an updated preliminary estimate of $17,000,000 for the proposed Project and continues to find it an institutional priority, consistent with the *Strategic Capital Plan*, and worthy of further review:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee hereby again endorses the Project with the understanding that the additional funds are being raised through philanthropy and again remits it to the Budget, Finance, and Investment Committee for financial review and approval.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the resolution for recommendation to the full Board.

**Classroom Improvements**

An identified institutional priority, it is the intent to request the endorsement of this project by the EPIR Committee, with the objective to present the financial resolution request to the Budget, Finance, and Investment Committee at the February 2008 Board meeting. The $3.0M initial investment approved in May 2005 enabled improvements for 42 general purpose classrooms. Management is proposing to undertake the next phase of classroom improvement projects for $500,000 (as detailed in the Strategic Capital Plan), principally during the summer 2008.

**Research Infrastructure Fund FY 2009**

An annual set-aside of $1M is requested for the purchase of capital scientific equipment and for upgrades to scientific laboratories at the University. Provost John Hughes explained that this
project has been identified as an institutional priority and this proposal is an attempt to infuse some funds into sorely needed equipment and laboratory improvements.

The following resolutions were put before the Committee to endorse:

**Classroom Improvements Project FY ’09**

WHEREAS, the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee has reviewed the classroom inventory and preliminary estimate of $500,000 for the proposed Classroom Improvements Project FY ’09 and finds it an institutional priority, consistent with the Strategic Capital Plan, and worthy of further review;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee hereby endorses the project and remits it to the Budget, Finance, and Investment Committee for financial review and approval at the February 2008 meeting.

**Research Infrastructure Fund FY ’09**

WHEREAS, the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee has reviewed the concept for the proposed Research Infrastructure Fund FY ’09 for $1 million and finds it an institutional priority, consistent with the Strategic Capital Plan, and worthy of further review;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee hereby endorses the fund and remits it to the Budget, Finance, and Investment Committee for financial review and approval at the February 2008 meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the resolutions for recommendation to the full Board.

**University Strategic Planning**

Provost John Hughes provided a brief introduction of the University Strategic Planning report. He informed the Committee that last February, Special Assistant to the Provost for Planning and Assessment Dale Jaffe appeared before EPIR to discuss the work of the newly reconstituted University Planning Council (UPC). Dr. Jaffe returns at this EPIR meeting to lead a discussion on the UPC’s work over the past ten months, the creation of the Strategic Plan Performance Indicators report, and how the UPC hopes to use this report and other data and analyses in the months ahead to review and revise the current strategic plan. Provost Hughes noted that the Strategic Plan gives a new starting point for mapping the path to our destination, the opportunity to assess our progress toward those goals, and the opportunity to redirect our efforts in attaining the goals. He added that in an initial retreat on the document, the University Planning Council noted a need for refinement of some of the measures, a process that is currently being undertaken.

Special Assistant to the Provost, Dr. Dale Jaffe, then provided a brief overview of the efforts underway to assess and revise the UVM Strategic Plan. Referencing the Strategic Plan
Performance Indicators Report previously sent with the Board materials, Dr. Jaffe briefly described the development of the report, the initial reactions of the University Planning Council to the data, and how the UPC plans on using this information to respond to President Fogel’s charge to review and revise the UVM Strategic Plan. The main purpose in proposing this item was to assist the Board in carrying out its responsibility to monitor the University’s progress in achieving its goals and objectives. According to Dr. Jaffe, most trends suggest movement in the desired direction and that overall, UVM has achieved a great deal over the past five years, and there remains a good deal more to do. Some specific areas of concern: retention and graduation rates of undergraduates; diversity climate and demographics; data on the student experience from the most recent Survey of Graduates; and the level of sponsored program funding. The Committee began a discussion of the indicators of the seven goals that will be continued at the next meeting.

Diversity Report – Update on Commissions

Provost John Hughes provided the report on behalf of President Fogel. The Provost reported that this year, he and the President responded to the recommendations that have come forward from the President’s Commissions on 1) the Status of Women, 2) Racial Diversity, 3) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Equity, and 4) Diversity and Inclusion. Several recommendations came jointly from the commissions, including Campus Climate. The President and Provost are committed to continuing Campus Climate Surveys with the next being undertaken no later than the end of FY 2010 stressing the importance of continually monitoring progress and redirecting resources to achieve desired outcomes. The President and Provost have also accepted the recommendation to use the phrase “UVM Diversity and Inclusion: A Commitment to Excellence,” which they hope will be widely used and associated with these efforts at the University. In addition, the President and Provost are actively examining ways that they can make the discussion and Board input on diversity more extensive and inclusive of the entire Board. Diversity is the highest priority among the goals of the Strategic Plan, and a way must be found to have substantive discussions that lead to action and continuing commitment which will quickly lead to discussion among Board leadership when ideas are more fully developed.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Heath, Chair