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, May 15, 2009 at 9:15 a.m. in the Livak Ballroom, 417-419 Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clair Ayer, Co-Vice Chairs Jeffrey Davis and Johanna Donovan, James Betts, Christopher Bray, Harry Chen, David Potter, Adam Roof, Bill Ruprecht, and Jeanette White

TRUSTEES ABSENT: None

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Faculty Representatives Dan Archdeacon, Judith Cohen and Cynthia Forehand; Staff Representative Amanda McIntire; Student Representative John Steele Taylor; Alumni Representative Janet Terp

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Staff Representative Shari Langlois and Alumni Representative Ted Madden

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: John Hughes, Senior Vice President and Provost; Chris Lucier, Vice President for Enrollment Management; Dom Grasso, Dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences; Kathleen Kelleher, Interim Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations; Jon Porter, Interim Director Center for Health & Wellbeing; and Beth Wiser, Director of Admissions

Chair Claire Ayer called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2009 meeting.

Report by the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee Chair

Cynthia Forehand, Curricular Affairs Committee Chair, reported that the Curricular Affairs Committee approved a policy brought forward by its standing committee, the Diversity Curriculum Review Committee, to provide a non-course alternative for students to meet the diversity curriculum requirement.

Dr. Forehand discussed the proposal to eliminate the two credit physical education requirement. There is widespread student and faculty support to eliminate the physical education requirement since it has impeded many students from completing their degrees on time. It is anticipated that there will continue to be a wide range of activities available that will be more accessible through
the expansion of the current campus recreation activities. Concern was expressed that there is no alternative in place before eliminating the physical education requirement. Chair Ayer decided to table the Physical Education Requirement Elimination until the Committee had a chance to review the full proposal.

Dr. Forehand also presented an approval of a new Bachelor of Arts degree in Engineering. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a collaborative program with the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences and the College of Arts & Sciences which will allow them to earn a degree in engineering with a stronger foundation in liberal arts and humanities. Dom Grasso, Dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences stated that the costs and additional resources for creating a new degree program in this case would be minimal as it would be more of a redistribution of current resources.

The committee requested that future resolutions include a report on needed resources and budgeting as well as the full proposal received by the Curricular Affairs Committee.

**Provost’s Report**

John Hughes, Senior Vice President and Provost invited Chris Lucier, Vice President of Enrollment Management to report on admissions for the fall semester. Vice President Lucier introduced Beth Wiser, Director of Admissions and Marie Johnson, Director of Student Financial Services and commended them on the major role they play in the enrollment process. He called on Beth Wiser to report on matriculation. She gave a summary for the class of 2013 regarding academic quality, geography and diversity. Although it has been challenging given the current economic climate, they have been able to meet budget requirements and academic distribution while crafting the composition of the class of 2013. There are 2760 first year student deposits with the matriculation target set at 2585. Attrition is anticipated as students often change their minds. This class includes the greatest number of Green and Gold (33) and National Merit (12) Scholars. The class has 23.5% Vermont students and 76.5% out of state students from 44 represented states. Legacy deposits (students with a UVM connection) were approximately 9%. There were 321 ALANA deposits, 14% of which were Vermonters.

Provost Hughes reported that the visiting NEASC accreditation team will send a written summary report later this summer regarding the university’s decennial accreditation review. The team gave a verbal report that was highly laudatory. The team outlined areas that need attention including the lack of a general education requirement or core curriculum, improvement needed for the first year experience and student advising. These all fall under the purview of the EPIR committee and focus over the course of the next year should include these items as the Committee develops its work plan.

Provost Hughes next reported that this year’s Promotion and Tenure Process included one hundred actions. He recognized two from the group of recently promoted faculty members. Dr. Thomas Macias was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Sociology, and Dr. Sharon Henry was promoted to the rank of Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy.
The Extended Discussion Topic of benchmark and admissions win-loss comparisons continued from the February meeting. In the measures of In-State Costs After Aid, Out-of-State Costs After Aid, Average In-State Tuition Increase Over the Past Five Years, Average Out-of-State Tuition Increase Over the Past Five Years, and Student/Faculty Ratio, the University of Vermont holds an advantageous position over its leading competitors. Conversely, Median SAT Score, Six-Year Graduation Rate, First-Year Retention Rate, and Acceptance Rate are measures that call for more attention as we seek to improve our competitive position. In keeping with the NEASC recommendations the EPIR committee needs to focus on instituting a general education requirement or core curriculum, better student advising and first year experience to help retain students and remove barriers that exist that inhibit movement within programs at this university. Changing demographics in the next few years will affect marketing strategies. The number of graduating high school seniors in the Northeast is predicted to decline until 2017. This means a smaller pool to draw from and an even greater need to expand recruitment across the country.

**Action Items**

Chair Ayer presented the following resolution for approval:

**Resolution Approving the Creation of a Bachelor of Arts in Engineering**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a Bachelor of Arts in Engineering, as approved and advanced by the Provost on April 30, 2009, and the President on April 30, 2009.

A motion was made, seconded and it was unanimously voted to approve the creation of a BA in Engineering for recommendation to the full Board.

**Development and Alumni Relations (DAR) Update**

Kathleen Kelleher, Interim Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, reported at the end of April, DAR has received pledged support of 23.5 million dollars. Priority in the remaining FY09 is to meet and then surpass the unrestricted goal of $2,344,000 with $2,216,718 raised to date and they anticipate meeting the goal by June 30. The University’s unrestricted goal is $2.9 million for FY10. The focus of Major and Principal Gifts staff is to develop the pipeline of gifts at the major and principal gifts levels as well as solicit all managed prospects for leadership annual gifts because this will be a critical source of unrestricted dollars in FY10. DAR will review, revise and update the gift naming policies and campaign reporting standards. The revisions will flow through the University’s process for policy updates. With strong support from the Alumni Association Board of Directors, plans are now underway to complete an architectural study for 61 Summit Street (Edward Wells House), the site of the future Alumni House by January 1, 2010. The study will form the basis of a fundraising plan for the project.

**Student Technology Innovation Fund Update**

Mara Saule, Dean of Libraries and Learning Resources, offered to postpone her report to the October 2009 meeting due to time constraints.
Other Business

Chair Ayer announced that the remaining meeting time would be spent touring the various student health services facilities across campus and that the Committee would reconvene over lunch to preview its work plan for the year.

- **Center for Health and Wellbeing (CHWB) Tour**

  At 11:15 a.m., the Committee departed for a tour of the Center for Health and Wellbeing, led by Dr. Jon Porter, Interim Director. Dr. Porter provided the Committee with an overview of the CHWB, what it does, how it is important to student physical and mental well-being and its crucial role at the University. Tom Gustafson, Vice President for Student & Campus Life added that the Center for Health and Wellbeing facilities are included in the final report of the Campus Life Task Force II study which will be posted on the Trustees website next week.

- **Working Lunch**

  The Committee returned to the Livak Ballroom in the Davis Center at 12:30 p.m. and was joined by President Fogel, Provost Hughes and Interim Provost-elect Jane Knodell who previewed with the Committee a preliminary work plan for the coming year.

  At 1:30 p.m., the Chair recessed the meeting until 8:15 a.m. Saturday morning at which time the Committee was to resume discussion of the elimination of the physical education requirement. The Chair requested that the full proposal for the elimination of the requirement be provided to Committee members for their review before reconvening.

  The Chair reconvened the meeting at 8:15 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2009 in the Chittenden Bank Room, 413 Dudley H. Davis Center.

  MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clair Ayer, Co-Vice Chairs Jeffrey Davis and Johanna Donovan, James Betts, Christopher Bray, Harry Chen, David Potter, Adam Roof, Bill Ruprecht, and Jeanette White

  TRUSTEES ABSENT: None

  REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Faculty Representative Cynthia Forehand

  REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Faculty Representatives Dan Archdeacon and Judith Cohen; Staff Representatives Amanda McIntire and Shari Langlois; Student Representative John Steele Taylor; Alumni Representatives Janet Terp and Ted Madden

  PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: John Hughes, Senior Vice President and Provost
Continued Discussion of the Elimination of the Physical Education Requirement

Chair Ayer offered an opportunity for further discussion on the proposed elimination of the physical education requirement. Committee members agreed they were ready to entertain a motion to consider the recommendation having had the opportunity to review the full proposal. There being no further discussion, the following resolution was presented:

**Resolution Approving Elimination of the Physical Education Requirement**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the elimination of the University-wide two-credit Physical Education requirement, as approved and advanced by the Provost on April 3, 2009, and the President on April 6, 2009.

A motion was made, seconded and it was unanimously voted to approve the resolution with a request that the administration return to the Committee with a specific proposal for addressing student health and wellness issues.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Ayer, Chair