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, October 23, 2009 at 9:45 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: Daniel Fogel

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:  Faculty Representatives Dan Archdeacon and Cynthia Forehand (via phone); Staff Representative Amanda McIntire; Student Representative Lindsey Burns; Alumni Representative Janet Terp

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Faculty Representative Judith Cohen; Staff Representative Shari Langlois; Student Representative Mike Glynne; and Alumni Representative Ted Madden

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Cynthia Belliveau, Dean of Continuing Education; Ines Berrizbeitia, Webmaster and Instructional Technology Specialist; Thomas Gustafson, Vice President for Student and Campus Life; Jane Knodell, Interim Senior Vice President and Provost; Chris Lucier, Vice President for Enrollment Management; Brian Reed, Associate Provost for Curricular Affairs; Mara Saule, Dean of Libraries and Learning Resources; Annie Stevens, Assistant Vice President for Student and Campus Life; Bob Vaughan, Director of Capital Planning and Management, and Gary Derr, Vice President for Executive Operations

Chair Claire Ayer called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2009 meeting.

Report by the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee Chair

Cynthia Forehand, Curricular Affairs Committee Chair, reported that the Curricular Affairs Committee reviewed and approved proposals for the elimination of the Biobehavioral Concentration for the Psychology Bachelor of Science, a new minor in Dance, and a PhD and MS in Bioengineering. The Biobehavioral Concentration is no longer needed due to a revision of the psychology Bachelor of Science degree that will offer students more flexibility in choosing courses in behavioral neuroscience and learning and memory. The creation of a minor in dance, at no additional expense, supports an increasing student demand as evidenced by several students having created their own independently designed dance minor. Additionally, queries by students considering UVM clearly indicate the desirability of a Dance minor for successful recruitment of
fine arts students. Dr. Forehand commented that the Curricular Affairs Committee also approved a Doctor of Philosophy and a Master of Science in Bioengineering. The recommendation to create these degrees is currently being reviewed by the Provost and President.

**Provost’s Report**

Jane Knodell, Interim Senior Vice President and Provost, introduced all of the Deans, Associate Provosts, and Provost Office Staff in attendance at the meeting to the committee. Interim Provost Knodell gave an overview of two of the current Provost Office initiatives; General Education and the Transdisciplinary Research Initiative, which will advance educational quality, improve academic program focus, and increase institutional effectiveness at the University of Vermont. The General Education Work Group, chaired by Associate Provost Brian Reed has been charged with developing a proposal for a system of general education at UVM. The work group is in the process of identifying the desired learning attributes that should be derived from a UVM undergraduate education and determining how those attributes will be assessed. The Transdisciplinary Research Initiative comprised of eight areas of research (spires of excellence) has been created to achieve greater cohesiveness and integration across all of the schools and colleges. One hundred and forty-four faculty members have been self-nominated, and the work group membership will be announced next week. Each spire group will develop and submit their case statement by the end of January and be presented at the committee’s February meeting. There was time allowed at the end of Interim Provost Knodell’s discussion for comments and questions on the routine reports submitted for informational purposes that did not appear as agenda topics.

**Enrollment Management**

Vice President Chris Lucier discussed the U.S. Sino Pathways Program. This program has been designed to recruit Chinese students and support their transition and academic success in higher education at a U.S. university. The program is aligned with the University of Vermont’s mission to build a diverse and globally aware university community and vision of becoming a premier small research university. Vice President Lucier is anticipating approximately 40-60 Chinese students in the first year of the program, summer 2010, with an additional 100-120 student enrollment each year thereafter. The students will complete a one year foundation in China for their first year. Those students who are admitted to UVM will attend a summer bridge program before enrolling as second year students. The committee endorsed a resolution authorizing the President and Vice President for Enrollment Management to enter into a contract to establish a U.S. Sino Pathways Program at the University of Vermont.

**General Education**

Associate Provost Brian Reed reported on the progress of the General Education Work Group. The work group has been charged with designing a system of general education that supports students’ academic options and ensures their ability to change majors and transfer among the schools and colleges without having to take additional credits. Associate Provost Reed shared the Desired Attributes for Graduates of UVM Baccalaureate Degree Programs draft document with the committee. This document comprised of three broad categories: Knowledge, Skills, and
Personal and Social Responsibility outlines how students will earn credits towards their undergraduate degree through a combination of curricular and co-curricular requirements linked to the mission and vision of the university. A website has been created for the campus community to view the progress of the work group and ask questions. Three town meeting forums will be held in November and be open to campus administrators, faculty, staff and students.

**Center for Health and Wellbeing**

Vice President Thomas Gustafson updated the committee on the status of the Center for Health and Wellbeing. Both the Campus Life Task Force Committee and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation review highlighted that the university’s health programs are good, but that the health facilities have extremely limited space and are fragmented by being dispersed across campus. A new facility is a priority due to an increasing demand for services. Vice President Gustafson explained that there are two funding options for raising non-debt resources; private philanthropy and accumulated fee funds (a portion of student fees allotted towards the new facility funds). It was suggested that a formal plan may be brought to the February meeting.

**The College of 2020: Students**

Deans Cynthia Belliveau and Mara Saule, assisted by Ines Berrizbeitia, Webmaster and Instructional Technology Specialist, led a discussion on the topic of Megatrends in Teaching, Learning, and the Digital Age. Colleges and Universities are changing their course delivery methods from a traditional model of face to face instruction to one that incorporates online learning. Currently UVM offers some courses online via Blackboard (online learning software) but does not have any undergraduate or graduate degrees online. The student demand for convenience and multiple methods of delivery is increasing. In Fall 2009 there were 1221 active course selections, 1794 active instructors and 12,473 active students using Blackboard at UVM. The committee expressed interest in learning more about strategic approaches to online learning.

**Amendments to the Strategic Capital Plan**

Bob Vaughan, Director of Capital Planning and Management, presented the request for step one review of upgrades to Given Mechanicals and Infrastructure (preliminary estimate of $16,240,000), Cook Physical Science Renovation (preliminary estimate of $2,204,000), and Simpson Residential Dining Hall and Retail Store (preliminary estimate of $7,200,000). The first two projects are pending notification of grant awards from the National Institute for Health (Given) and the National Science Foundation (Cook). All three of the upgrades received step one approval from the committee. Simpson will be submitted to the Budget, Finance, and Investment (BFI) Committee for their financial review and approval at the February meeting; Given and Cook will be submitted to BFI only if the grant funding is received.
Action Items

Chair Ayer presented the following resolutions for approval:

**Given Mechanicals & Infrastructure Resolution**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee has carefully reviewed the program, scope, and preliminary estimate of $16,240,000 for the proposed Given Mechanicals & Infrastructure 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, following confirmation of National Institutes of Health grant award, for financial review and approval at their February 2010 meeting.

**Cook Physical Science Renovation Resolution**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee has carefully reviewed the program, scope, and preliminary estimate of $2,204,000 for the proposed Cook Physical Science renovation 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, following confirmation of National Science Foundation grant award, for financial review and approval at their February 2010 meeting.

**Simpson Residential Dining Hall & Retail Store Resolution**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee has carefully reviewed the program, scope, and preliminary estimate of $7,200,000 for the proposed Simpson Residential Dining Hall and Retail Store renovation 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 their February 2010 meeting.
**Resolution Approving the Establishment of a Minor in Dance**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the establishment of a Minor in Dance, as approved and advanced by the Provost on May 29, 2009, and the President on June 3, 2009.

**Resolution Approving the Termination of the Biobehavioral Concentration for the Psychology Bachelor of Science**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the termination of the Biobehavioral concentration for the Psychology Bachelor of Science, as approved and advanced by the Provost on May 29, 2009, and the President on June 3, 2009.

**Resolution Authorizing Agreement to Establish U.S. Sino Pathways Program at University of Vermont**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the President and/or Vice President for Enrollment Management to enter into a contract with Northeastern University and Shanghai Kai Bo Education Investment Management Co., Ltd, for the purpose of establishing a multi-component pathways program for students from the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) to begin studies in the PRC and complete them at the University of Vermont;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the initial agreement shall be for a term of one year, with the parties’ intent to develop a multi-year program of students completing their studies at the University of Vermont.

**Other Business**

The Committee reviewed their work plan. Chair Ayer asked that any committee member who has questions or concerns be in contact with her directly.

At 12:45 p.m., Chair Ayer entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contracts where premature general public knowledge would place the University at a substantial disadvantage. The motion was seconded and approved. All persons in attendance with the exception of trustees, Interim Provost Knodell and Vice President for Operations Gary Derr were excused for this portion of the meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was re-opened to the public at 12:55 p.m., there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Ayer, Chair