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, February 5, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Livak Ballroom, 417-419 Dudley H. Davis Center.

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Co-Vice Chair Jeffrey Davis

OTHER TRUSTEES PRESENT: Debbie McAneny, Samuel Bain, Robert Cioffi, Carolyn Branagan, Bill Botzow, Jason DePatie, Daniel Fogel, John Hilton Jr., Susan Hudson-Wilson, John Snow, Donna Sweaney, and Mark Young

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Faculty Representative Cynthia Forehand; Staff Representatives Shari Langlois and Amanda McIntire; Student Representatives Mike Glynne and Lindsey Burns

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Faculty Representatives Dan Archdeacon and Judith Cohen; Alumni Representatives Ted Madden and Janet Terp

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Alumnus Rob Cronin (sitting in for Alumni Representative Ted Madden), Alumna Kristina Pisanelli (sitting in for Alumni Representative Janet Terp), Domenico Grasso, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College; Wanda Heading-Grant, Associate Provost for Multicultural Affairs and Academic Initiatives; Jane Knodell, Interim Senior Vice President and Provost; Frederick Morin III, Dean of the College of Medicine; Patricia Prelock, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences; Brian Reed, Associate Provost for Curricular Affairs; Bob Vaughan, Director of Capital Planning and Management

Chair Claire Ayer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2009 meeting.

Capital Project Approval

Bob Vaughan, Director of Capital Planning and Management, Frederick Morin III, Dean of the College of Medicine, and Patricia Prelock, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences outlined a $2,000,000 proposal to renovate approximately 5,000 square feet of existing space in
the Rowell building to provide a Clinical Simulation Lab and to upgrade technology in the Given Assessment Center. The simulation lab will provide a collaborative and comprehensive teaching environment where students and health professionals can learn, practice, and demonstrate competence in patient care skills. The availability of a controlled and safe simulated environment will give both undergraduate and graduate students as well as health care professionals the ability to work together and practice their skills in a variety of authentic, real world scenarios which include trauma and casualty care. This state of the art training will also allow for the opportunity to practice, replay, and evaluate performance before being faced with actual patient interactions and emergencies. The project is in collaboration with the Vermont National Guard and Fletcher Allen Health Care (FAHC). This proposal received step one approval from the Committee and will be submitted to the Budget, Finance, and Investment (BFI) Committee for their financial review and approval.

Report by the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee Chair

Cynthia Forehand, Curricular Affairs Committee Chair, reported on the approval of three new initiatives. The Curricular Affairs Committee approved a proposal from the College of Education and Social Services to create the Tarrant Institute for Innovative Education. This is not an action item for this Board meeting as it has already been approved by the Executive Committee in December. Dr. Forehand briefly mentioned how the Tarrant Institute for Innovative Education was created to enhance the educational and technological pedagogy of middle school students in the local community.

Dr. Forehand also discussed the review and approval of a Certificate of Graduate Study in Greek and Latin Languages and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Neuroscience. The certificate in Greek and Latin Languages was created for students who choose to study Classics in a graduate program and for teachers in the local community who would like to acquire the skill set offered by this certificate to teach at the high school level. There are minimal costs associated because it draws on existing courses that already have capacity. The new Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience is an interdisciplinary degree representing the departments of Biology, Psychology, and Communication Sciences within the College of Arts and Sciences. This is a rigorous program with a focus on quantitative reasoning which prepares students for a variety of careers including graduate study in neuroscience.

Provost’s Report

Interim Provost Jane Knodell highlighted the current Provost Office initiatives which include: Diversity Curriculum and Recruitment, General Education, and Business Practices. The Provost’s Office has begun work on integrating individual unit diversity recruitment plans into a common master plan that will provide a summary of best practices and expectations related to diversity recruitment. During the spring semester items from each of the individual unit plans will be integrated into a master plan which outlines best practices related to diversity recruitment. The General Education Work Group, chaired by Associate Provost Brian Reed, decided unanimously to continue its work during the spring semester as an ad hoc Committee of the Faculty Senate and will report to the Senate’s Executive Council. Interim Provost Knodell thanked Associate Brian Reed and the General Education Work Group for their hard work. The
Provost’s Office has been working to streamline and improve current business practices at the University of Vermont: in particular the hiring and recruitment processes, with the assistance of Chief of Staff, Kerry Castano. Interim Provost Knodell also commented that the Research Enterprise would be discussed by Vice President and Dean Grasso as an item in the context of the Transdisciplinary Research Initiative.

Annual Diversity Report

Wanda Heading-Grant, Associate Provost for Multicultural Affairs and Academic Initiatives, updated the Committee on the six-credit diversity graduation requirement. It has been two and a half years since the Diversity Curriculum Review Committee has been constituted. Approximately 138 diversity course proposals have been approved to date. Associate Provost Heading-Grant also highlighted the Blackboard Jungle Symposium which was developed in the spirit of the six-credit diversity graduation requirement. The symposium content was created to better prepare University of Vermont faculty to teach in the complex and multi-faceted classrooms of today. This year’s Blackboard Jungle 3 Symposium will begin with a keynote address from Dr. Angela Davis. Associate Provost Heading-Grant also talked about the Diversity Curriculum Review Committee’s Subcommittee on Assessment’s next steps which are to conduct more faculty and student focus groups, analyze information from recent student evaluations completed in Fall 2009, and collaborate with the Provost’s Office on the integration of the diversity requirement into the general education requirements and into the larger institutional effort to assess student learning.

The Research Enterprise

Domenico Grasso, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College, gave an overview of The Research Enterprise at the University of Vermont. Three critical goals were emphasized: 1) Promoting the University of Vermont as a center for the creation of new knowledge, 2) Promoting responsible and strategic growth of the research enterprise (research as big business), and 3) Promoting the value and importance of the graduate community. Vice President Grasso is working towards promoting innovative research at the University of Vermont which is leading towards new inventions and patents and well as providing educational opportunities to graduate students in order for them to have influential careers. An example was given of how both the development of the drug Pixantrone, a potential treatment for non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, and an improved design of a maple spout, to boost maple syrup production, were developed by faculty and staff at the university and will create significant sources of revenue.

General Education Status Update

Brian Reed, Associate Provost for Curricular Affairs, provided a status update on the blueprint for a General Education system at the University of Vermont. Several key points were outlined including: proposed requirements that are derived from desired learning outcomes, the incorporation of national standards as well as UVM signature areas, transferability, and no net gain in total credits for degree programs. Associate Provost Reed discussed how the general education system is based on a hybrid administrative model with courses stratified into two
levels. Level one or foundational courses would have central oversight and assessment and level two courses would have oversight and assessment at the unit level. The implementation process for the general education system would occur over a period of four to five years. The Work Group would begin building on what the university already has while working on strategies to support the later phases. Associate Provost Reed also reported that assessment tools have not been determined at this time but will receive focused attention by the committee. The General Education Work Group will seek approval of the principles for a system of general education and begin developing a detailed proposal for phase one by working with the Associate Deans and Curriculum Committees of each school and college.

**Action Items**

Chair Ayer presented the following resolutions for approval:

**Clinical Simulation Laboratory Resolution**

WHEREAS, the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee has carefully reviewed the program, scope, and preliminary estimate of $2,000,000 for the proposed Clinical Simulation Laboratory 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 May 2010 meeting.

**Resolution Approving the Creation of a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience, as approved and advanced by the Provost on January 19, 2010, and the President on January 21, 2010.

**Resolution Approving the Creation of a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Greek and Latin Languages**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Greek and Latin Languages, as approved and advanced by the Provost on January 19, 2010, and the President on January 21, 2010.

A motion was made, seconded and it was unanimously voted to approve the Clinical Simulation Laboratory resolution as presented. The resolutions approving the creation of a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Greek and Latin Languages were approved by a vote of 8-1.
**Other Business**

The Committee reviewed its work plan. The decision was made to include internships, curriculum assessment strategies, and a strategic plan for distance learning as continued discussion topics.

At 12:00 p.m., the Committee recessed.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 2:55 p.m. in the Silver Maple Ballroom Room, 401 Dudley H. Davis Center.

**Transdisciplinary Research Initiative**

Interim Provost Jane Knodell and Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College Domenico Grasso presented a detailed report on the progress of the Transdisciplinary Research Initiative. Each spire of excellence will create a critical mass of faculty scholars, build faculty research groups across colleges, provide faculty the opportunity to work with graduate students and expand opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in research. The Transdisciplinary Research Initiative will reinvigorate the current academic environment and both broaden and deepen our intellectual community. Interim Provost Knodell summarized that the proposals from the eight working groups were submitted two weeks ago and a series of “town hall meetings” have been held for each spire. Currently there is an internal review process which will determine which proposals will move forward for external review. The initial group of spires will be presented to the Committee at the May meeting. Brief presentations on each of the proposals were given by faculty members on the eight Transdisciplinary Research Initiative working groups: biological sciences and bioengineering, complex systems, culture and society, environment, food systems, neuroscience, policy studies, and public health policy.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Ayer, Chair