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 4, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in the Livak Ballroom, 417-419 Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clair Ayer, Co-Vice Chairs Jeffrey Davis and Johanna Donovan, Christopher Bray, Frank Cioffi, David Potter, Dale Rocheleau, Bill Ruprecht, Adam Roof, and Jeanette White

TRUSTEES ABSENT: President Daniel Fogel and John Hilton

OTHER TRUSTEES PRESENT: Harry Chen

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Faculty Representatives Richard Galbraith, Cathy Paris, and Susan Crockenberg; Staff Representatives Shari Langlois and Amanda McIntire; Alumni Representatives Ted Madden and Ron Lumbra (temporarily filling the vacant second representative position); Student Representatives Daniel Filstein and Whitney O’Brien and Graduate Student Representative Sarah Surgala

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: None

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Jane Knodell, Interim Senior Vice President and Provost; Domenico Grasso, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College; Rich Bundy, Vice President for Development & Alumni Affairs; Cathy Paris, Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee Chair; Cindy Forehand, Associate Provost, Brian Reed, Associate Provost for Curricular Affairs, and Richard Watts, Assistant Research Professor

Chair Claire Ayer called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Chair Ayer introduced new Student Representative Daniel Filstein and recognized Staff Representative Shari Langlois who will be completing her term of service.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2010 meeting.

Provost’s Report

The Provost’s report focused on three topics: (1) internationalization, which was presented at the morning session of the Committee of the Whole; (2) Student Government Association initiatives regarding course evaluations, enhanced course information at pre-registrations, and priority registration; and (3) instruction capacity management. Provost Jane Knodell reported that the
Provost’s Office has been working the SGA and the Faculty Senate to respond to the SGA initiatives that relate to students’ access to information about courses, information about course quality, and access to courses themselves in the web-registration process. The Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee is working on a possible template for faculty to post either a syllabi or an enhanced description of their courses. This information will be posted on departmental websites before Spring, 2011 registration for Fall, 2011 courses. The Provost’s Office has been exploring options in response to the November 9th resolution passed by the SGA calling for a “…publishable questions section, drafted by the SGA, to be added as part of the course evaluations….,” Provost Knodell met with the SGA President and Vice President and agreed to move beyond the SGA proposed boycott and move into dialogue. Provost Knodell pointed out that these initiatives are indicative of student body that wants to make good use of their time at UVM.

The topic of internationalization stimulated a discussion about the University’s capacity for taking on new initiatives and the associated resources necessary to do so. Committee members expressed interest in understanding the decision making process for choosing which initiatives to move forward.

**Introduction of New Vice President for Development & Alumni Relations**

Provost Jane Knodell introduced Richard Bundy, the new Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations. Vice President Bundy reported on several new initiatives including planning for the next comprehensive campaign and launching the new University of Vermont Foundation. In the short term, the University’s major gift officers are being reintegrated into their respective schools and colleges. Vice President Bundy also reported that over the next six months, the University will focus on leadership gifts for the alumni house which has the potential to be a depository of the history and tradition of UVM.

**Report by the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee Chair**

Cathy Paris, Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee Chair, reported on two new programs that were approved by the CAC: a new Ph.D. program in the College of Education and Social Services, which has not yet come before the Faculty Senate; and a Certificate of Graduate Study in Sustainable Transportation and Mobility, which the EPIR Committee will be asked to approve at this meeting. Professor Paris explained that a certificate of graduate study is a cohesive curriculum that is well defined to build student expertise in a particular area but not with the depth and comprehensive scope that a degree program would. It does impart the student with a certain set of skills that are marketable.

**Action Items**

Chair Ayer presented the following resolution for approval:
Resolution Approving Certificate of Graduate Study in Sustainable Transportation and Mobility

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a Certificate of Graduate Study in Sustainable Transportation and Mobility as approved and advanced by the Provost on January 25, 2011 and the President on January 25, 2011.

A motion was made, seconded and it was approved with one opposed.

General Education Update

Brian Reed, Associate Provost for Curricular Affairs, reported on the progress on the establishment of a system of General Education at the University of Vermont. After providing some background, Associate Provost Reed announced that the General Education Committee’s preliminary report will be posted on the UVM website by Tuesday, February 8th. After attending an ACCU conference last year, members of the General Education Committee conducted an engagement campaign and visited every academic department and every governance group plus six student focus groups. The Committee also conducted an online survey. As a result, the Committee produced a new and quite different proposal from the first one, which they presented to the CAC and received a very positive response. Associate Provost Reed reported that the Committee arrived at the following six outcomes: Communication and Information Literacy, Quantitative Reasoning, Global and Cultural Understandings and Diversity; Systems and Sustainability, Traditions of Art, Aesthetics, and Design, and Application of Knowledge. Curriculum development will create resource needs for professional development for faculty, advising needs, and some administrative structures. Assessment will be multifaceted – along with the traditional exam, there might be a variety of ways in which to conduct assessment including some home-grown tools. The Committee plans on seeking input from the campus community, and the final proposal will go before the Faculty Senate for a vote by the end of the spring semester.

Quality of the Graduate Student Experience

Domenico Grasso, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate Studies and Cindy Forehand, Associate Dean, provided an overview of Graduate College programs and operation and contextualized the role of graduate education on campus. Vice President Grasso pointed out that graduate education is one of the major issues for the future of this country and discussed the issue of losing students to other institutions due to those institutions’ internships offering higher stipends than the University of Vermont. Graduate education is an important part of the University, and it enhances the undergraduate programs. Innovation and technology commercialization is something that is becoming more part of our intrinsic nature at UVM. Funding resources will come from research grants and philanthropy.

National Research Council Update

Domenico Grasso, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate discussed the recent National Research Council Report on Graduate Program Quality which came out last year and
drew attention from universities all over the country. Vice President Grasso listed the most important factors in how graduate programs are evaluated: faculty with research grants, publications per faculty per year, citations per paper, and faculty receiving prestigious awards.

**Other Business**

- **Review of Work Plan and Preview of Next Meeting Agenda**

  The Committee will discuss the following items at the May meeting:
  1. TRI annual report (metrics, accomplishments, resources applied this year and needed in the future)
  2. General Education
  3. Academic Technology Plan
  4. Retention study/student success satisfaction
  5. APR & viability review

- Trustee Jeff Davis acknowledged and thanked both Chair Ayer and Trustee Joey Donovan for their service on the EPIR Committee.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Ayer, Chair