A meeting of the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources (EPIR) Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Friday, May 18, 2018 at 1:00 p.m., in the Livak Ballroom, 417-419 Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Donna Sweaney, Briar Alpert, Cynthia Barnhart, Otto Berkes, Frank Cioffi, Jodi Goldstein, Sidney Hilker, Curt McCormack, Anne O’Brien, Shap Smith*, and Jeff Wilson

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Vice Chair Carolyn Dwyer, and President Thomas Sullivan

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Faculty Representatives Laura Almstead and Chris Burns, Staff Representatives Sarah Heath and Amanda McIntire, Alumni Representative Afi Ahmadi, Foundation Representative Wolfgang Mieder, Student Representatives Jamie Benson and Ethan Foley, and Graduate Student Representative Leslie Sepaniac

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Faculty Representative Jan Carney, and Graduate Student Representative Jessica Bocanegra

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Director of Capital Planning and Management Robert Vaughan, Plant Biology Department Chair David Barrington, Provost and Senior Vice President David Rosowsky**, Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning Brian Reed, Vice Provost for Student Affairs Annie Stevens, UVM Internship Coordinator Amanda Chase, Vice President for University Relations and Administration Tom Gustafson, Vice President for Enrollment Management Stacey Kostell, Creative Communications Director Amanda Waite, Dean of Continuing and Distance Education Cynthia Belliveau, University Registrar Veronika Carter, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics Joan Rosebush, and Mechanical Engineering Student Ian Moore

*arrived at 1:14 p.m.
**departed at 1:41 and rejoined at 1:46 p.m.

Chair Donna Sweaney called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and welcomed new members Trustees Otto Berkes, Jodi Goldstein, and Sidney Hilker.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 9, 2018 EPIR Committee meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes as presented.
Routine and Annual Reports

Chair Donna Sweaney provided an opportunity for Committee members to offer comments and ask questions pertaining to the following written reports pre-distributed in the meeting materials:
- Provost’s Report
- Annual Translate New Knowledge to Benefit Society - Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Report (Enterprise Risk Management Opportunity #5 Update)
- Annual Graduate Education Report
- Annual Academic Advising Report
- Capital Projects Progress Report

Capital Projects

Director of Capital Planning and Management Robert Vaughan and Plant Biology Chair David Barrington reviewed a proposal for the interior phase of the Torrey Hall renovation project. Director Vaughan reported that the exterior renovation was completed over the winter. The interior phase will include a complete fit-up of all new systems within the building in order to house the programs of the University’s Pringle Herbarium and the Zadock Thompson Zoological Collections. Professor Barrington provided the history of the building noting that Torrey Hall serves Vermont as a valuable resource. It is estimated that the project will cost $6.3 million, based on the current estimates and that project costs will be covered by a combination of insurance proceeds, external grants and gift funds.

Director Vaughan then reviewed a proposal for the renovation of 439 College Street. The property is managed by Residential Life and currently houses 22 students. Renovations include an upgrade to interior staircases, installation of a new elevator, replacement of all restrooms, upgrades to student rooms, relocating the first-floor kitchen, creating space for offices and multi-use spaces throughout the building, window replacements, and installation of new air conditioning. It is estimated that this project will cost $2.4 million, based on the current estimates and project costs will be funded entirely with gift funds.

The following resolutions were presented and an opportunity for discussion was offered:

**Resolution Approving Torrey Hall Interior Renovation Project**

WHEREAS, the administration today reported on the strategic and operational need for the Torrey Hall Interior Renovation Project and the associated program scope;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee hereby approves the project scope that the administration presented on this date and refers the Project to the Budget, Finance & Investment Committee for financial review and approval.

**Resolution Approving 439 College Street Renovation Project**

WHEREAS, the administration today reported on the strategic and operational need for the 439 College Street Renovation Project and the associated program scope;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee hereby approves the project scope that the administration presented on this date and refers the Project to the Budget, Finance & Investment Committee for financial review and approval.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made, seconded and the Trustees unanimously voted to approve the two resolutions as presented.

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

Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) Chair Laura Almstead offered highlights of the six academic program proposals outlined in greater detail in her written report included as Report G in the meeting materials.

- Termination of the existing BA in Plant Biology and the creation of a BS in Plant Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). The degree requirements both prior to and following the concentration eliminations were out of compliance with the standards in CAS for a BA degree and matched the standards for a BS degree. There will be no change to existing requirements.

- A new minor in American Sign Language (ASL) in the College of Education and Social Services. The proposed minor will help students increase ASL culture and language competencies, and to develop a deeper understanding of Deaf experiences through historical, social, and cultural perspectives.

- A new Certificate of Graduate Studies (CGS) in Sustainable Enterprise in the Grossman School of Business in conjunction with the Graduate College. The proposed certificate offers a means of educating graduate students from diverse backgrounds on how enterprises can be both profitable and responsible. The certificate will be offered entirely online. As an online Graduate Certificate program, the CGS in Sustainable Enterprise will allow UVM to draw new students that are not interested in pursuing a graduate degree and/or are not able to enroll in an on-site program. It was noted the new Certificate will be a valuable addition to the current graduate certificate options at UVM.

- A new Certificate of Graduate Studies in Community Resilience and Planning in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in conjunction with the Graduate College. The proposed certificate is designed to help masters, doctoral, and certificate-only students develop the skills and knowledge needed to lead and guide communities through periods of change brought on by natural, economic, social, and political shocks and disruptions. This CGS offers a well-developed curriculum that incorporates research and fieldwork in addition to classroom study.

- A new Master of Science in Athletic Training (AT) in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences in conjunction with the Graduate College. The program has been proposed in response to a change in licensing standards for Athletic Trainers by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). Initiating the transition to a
masters-level degree prior to the CAATE’s deadline of 2022 will allow UVM to remain competitive with other universities that offer AT programs.

- A new PhD in Physics in the College of Arts and Science in conjunction with the Graduate College. The proposed PhD aims to train students in the concepts and skills required to attack some of the most critical problems facing our world with an emphasis on complex and interdisciplinary challenges in technology, materials design, and renewable energy. In addition to improving the ability of the Physics Department to attract and retain high-quality faculty, obtain external funding, and support their transition to an Active Learning model in the introductory physics courses, the program will also enhance the institution’s reputation by strengthening research and teaching at the University.

**Action Items**

The following resolutions were presented and an opportunity for discussion was offered:

**Resolution Approving the Elimination of a Bachelor of Arts in Plant Biology and the Creation of a Bachelor of Science in Plant Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the elimination of a Bachelor of Arts in Plant Biology and the creation of a Bachelor of Science in Plant Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, as approved and advanced by the Provost and President on March 28, 2018.

**Resolution Approving the Creation of a Minor in American Sign Language in the College of Education & Social Services**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a Minor in American Sign Language in the College of Education & Social Services, as advanced by the Provost on April 27, 2018 and the President on April 28, 2018.

**Resolution Approving the Creation of a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Sustainable Enterprise in the Graduate College**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Sustainable Enterprise in the Graduate College, as advanced by the Provost on April 27, 2018 and the President on April 28, 2018.

**Resolution Approving the Creation of a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Community Resilience and Planning in the Graduate College**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Community Resilience and Planning in the Graduate College, as advanced by the Provost on April 27, 2018 and the President on April 28, 2018.
Resolution Approving the Creation of a Master of Science in Athletic Training in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a Master of Science in Athletic Training in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, as advanced by the Provost on April 27, 2018 and the President on April 28, 2018.

Resolution Approving the Creation of a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Physics in the Graduate College

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Physics in the Graduate College, as approved and advanced by the Provost and President on May 17, 2018.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made, seconded and the Trustees unanimously voted to approve the six resolutions as presented.

Internship Opportunities

Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning Brian Reed, Vice Provost for Student Affairs Annie Stevens, and UVM Internship Coordinator Amanda Chase reported on internship opportunities and explained how the University links academic learning and career development via internships. Associate Provost Reed explained that five years ago, the campus community was charged with increasing student participation in internships while deepening the quality and accessibility of those experiences. Vice Provost Annie Stevens reviewed progress over the last five years. She reported that 67% of UVM students engage in an internship before graduating compared to 48% of college students nationwide. Internship Coordinator Chase showed four brief videos of students’ stories of their transformational internship experiences. Vice Provost Stevens discussed the following next steps: develop supervisor and instructor proficiency with career competency framework, diversify opportunities, expand participation in high-quality internships and related experiences, seek increased funding for internship scholarships, ensure robust assessment of academic internships, and refine internship course categorization.

Concerning 67% student participation, Provost Rosowsky expressed his appreciation for the percentage and asked how far away UVM is from achieving 100% participation in some kind of internship experience during the student’s four years. Vice Provost Stevens responded that there are variables that affect that number, including summer jobs, study abroad, etc. Provost Rosowsky added that any barriers need to be identified and resolved as quickly as possible. Student Representative Ethan Foley pointed out that there are not as many jobs in Vermont as elsewhere and asked if the Career Center is trying to expand opportunities in Vermont. UVM Internship Coordinator Chase responded that they are in the process of developing opportunities through job fairs, Handshake (an online resource for local and national job postings, internships, and events), the job shadowing program, etc. She added that this is an ongoing effort.
Communicate UVM’s Narrative (Enterprise Risk Management Opportunity #15 Update)

Vice President for University Relations and Administration Tom Gustafson, Vice President for Enrollment Management Stacey Kostell, and Creative Communications Director Amanda Waite presented a range of updates about progress on UVM’s communications goals through the past year. In addition, the team reviewed the following goals selected in concert with the President’s Strategic Action Plan as well as goals for the Division of Enrollment Management:

- The University of Vermont seeks to increase its reputation locally, nationally and internationally.
- Attract and retain high quality, diverse students.
- Successfully complete a historic, $500 million capital campaign.

Creative Communications Director Waite also provided updates on a number of new initiatives. These included: newly created print pieces that showcase academic offerings at the University; a menagerie of logo templates to be utilized campus wide for consistency; a new online series (Live at 5) that spotlights faculty for prospective undergraduates; an international marketing campaign on behalf of the Graduate College; success in national media reach and an opportunity for researchers to learn from and network with a top science reporter; and a new online campus map that creates the opportunity to showcase the University in novel ways.

Academic Excellence Goal #5 Revisited (Enterprise Risk Management Opportunity #4 Update)

Dean of Continuing & Distance Education Cynthia Belliveau, University Registrar Veronika Carter, Undergraduate Student Ian Moore, Senior Lecturer Joan “Rosi” Rosebush, and Provost Rosowsky discussed progress made on Academic Excellence Goal #5 which calls for expanded programmatic offerings to include distance and hybrid modes of instructional delivery. They discussed some of the most promising current and future areas for distance education.

Provost Rosowsky reminded the members of the Academic Excellence Goals, which were “established to animate President Sullivan’s Strategic Action Plan and facilitate University-wide discussion, engagement, and initiatives around Academic Excellence.” The Provost reported that as both online and campus-based programs evolve, the University wants to ensure that the systems support student success and the academic calendar maximizes flexibility and decreases time-to-degree. A summer work group has been assembled to explore the needs, opportunities, and barriers related to a 12-month calendar. Dean Belliveau reported on the future of distance education, who the online audience is, what they are seeking, and examples of current and potential programs that are meeting their needs.

Professor Rosebush provided a demonstration of distance education technology and capabilities, and the communication and connectivity between faculty members and students that it facilitates and supports. Ian Moore, a mechanical engineering major and member of the Nordic ski team from Richmond, Vermont, discussed the student experience of live online courses.
Other Business

Chair Sweaney invited comments on the draft Committee Work Plan for the coming year. Trustee Anne O’Brien suggested continued focus on academic excellence goals.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sweaney, Chair