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 17, 2019 at 1:30 p.m., in the Livak Ballroom, 417-419 Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Carolyn Dwyer, John Bartholomew¹, Otto Berkes, Frank Cioffi, Jodi Goldstein, David Gringeri, Carol Ode¹, and Shap Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chair Cynthia Barnhart, Johanna Donovan, Curt McCormack, President Thomas Sullivan, and Samuel Young

OTHER TRUSTEES PRESENT: Board of Trustees Chair David Daigle²

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Faculty Representatives Laura Almstead and Chris Burns, Staff Representatives Sarah Heath and Amanda McIntire, Foundation Representative Wolfgang Mieder, Student Representatives Jamie Benson and Ethan Foley, and Graduate Student Representative Jessica Bocanegra

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Faculty Representative Jan Carney, Alumni Representative Afi Ahmadi, and Graduate Student Representative Kenna Rewcastle

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Interim Provost and Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock, College of Arts and Sciences Dean William Falls, Director of Capital Planning and Management Robert Vaughan, Larner College of Medicine Dean Rick Page, Vice President for Enrollment Management Stacey Kostell, Coordinator of Strategic Retention Sarah Warrington, Director of Institutional Research Alex Yin, and College of Arts and Sciences Honors College Sophomore Stephanie Kramer

¹ Joined by conference phone
² Joined the meeting at 1:57 p.m. and departed at 3:30 p.m.

Chair Carolyn Dwyer called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and welcomed new members and representatives John Bartholomew, Joey Donovan, David Gringeri, Carol Ode, Sam Young, and Ethan Foley. Chair Dwyer announced that the order of agenda items 6 and 2 were being switched in order to allow College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Dean William Falls to attend an academic ceremony this afternoon.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 1, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes as presented.
Chair Dwyer introduced Interim Provost and Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock and invited her to offer brief remarks. Referencing her written report, Interim Provost Prelock shared some observations from her first thirty days in her new role. She acknowledged the deans, faculty, staff and students and reported on the numerous events she has attended. Interim Provost Prelock then offered a brief introduction to the Academic Excellence Goals presentation reminding the Committee that at the last EPIR meeting, the Committee members thought it would be informative to hear from individual colleges to learn more about their strategies to advance the goals and the progress they have made.

**Academic Excellence Goals – College of Arts & Sciences Update on Strategies and Progress**

CAS Dean William Falls presented a comprehensive overview of the College’s strategies and progress made on the eight academic excellence goals (see appendix A at the end of the minutes). Dean Falls reported on efforts to attract, retain, and graduate, in four years, students earning Bachelor’s degrees in CAS including:

- New and revised majors and minors (Goals 1, 2 & 4)
- Renewed focus on academic advising (Goals 1, 2, 3 & 7)
- Revision of the core curriculum (Goals 2 & 4)
- Integration of liberal arts transferable skills into the curriculum (Goals 2 & 3)
- Career preparation (Goals 2 & 3)
- Reimagining summer offerings (Goals 1 & 5)

Also included in the presentation were updates on efforts to improve access to the University’s liberal arts education and to encourage interdisciplinary teaching and research.

**Resolution Approving Project Program Plan for Larner College of Medicine Biomedical Research Building**

Director of Capital Planning and Management Robert Vaughan and Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) Dean Rick Page reviewed a proposal for construction of a Biomedical Research Building. The building’s layout encourages interaction and collaboration by consolidating research laboratory and shared write-up zone infrastructure to facilitate multidisciplinary research and the cross-pollination of ideas. The building’s site will be in a centralized location on the LCOM campus, connected to adjoining Health Science Research Facility, Stafford, and Given buildings. In keeping with the building’s design theme, LCOM submitted a $7.9 million National Institute of Health grant proposal to house a UVM Center for Biomedical Shared Resources on the first floor of the building. It was noted that the project is not dependent on that funding. It is estimated that this project will cost $45.0 million. Dean Page announced that the building will be named “Firestone Medical Research Building” in honor of College of Medicine alumnus Steven N. Firestone, M.D who has committed a naming gift.

The following resolution was presented and an opportunity for discussion was offered:
Resolution Approving Project Program Plan for Larner College of Medicine Biomedical Research Building

WHEREAS, the administration today reported on the strategic and operational need for the construction of the Larner College of Medicine Biomedical Research Building Project and the associated program scope;

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

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

Report by the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee Chair

Referencing her written report, Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee Chair Laura Almstead introduced the following two academic program proposals:

- The creation of a Minor in Computer Science Education (CSE) in the College of Education and Social Services. The proposed minor is designed for students interested in teaching computer science in schools and other settings. Of central significance is the collaboration between UVM’s Computer Science and Education departments in program design and implementation. The new CSE minor will build on the legislature’s commitment to support programming to increase educational opportunities, particularly for those students who have traditionally been underserved in computer science education and careers.

- The creation of a Bachelor of Social Work Degree (BSW) in the College of Education and Social Services and to transition the existing Bachelor of Science with a major in Social Work to a BSW degree. Social Work is an accredited program and a majority of institutions that offer accredited programs in social work award students BSW degrees. Students that hold a BSW degree are eligible for limited, but substantive, professional work. It will also help students move on to graduate studies or into the job force as well as help UVM attract students to the program.

Action Items

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

Resolution Approving the Creation of a Minor in Computer Science Education in the College of Education and Social Services

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a Minor in Computer Science Education in the College of Education and Social Services, as approved and advanced by the Interim Provost and President on April 22, 2019.
Resolution Approving the Creation of a Bachelor of Social Work Degree in the College of Education and Social Services

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a Bachelor of Social Work Degree in the College of Education and Social Services, as approved and advanced by the Interim Provost and President on April 26, 2019.

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

Routine and Annual Reports

Chair Dwyer 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
- Annual Graduate Education Report
- Annual Academic Advising Report
- Capital Projects Progress Report

Educational Advisory Board (EAB) Navigate – Advising Software Presentation

Vice President for Enrollment Management Stacey Kostell provided an update on the University’s retention strategies and efforts focusing on the newly implemented Educational Advisory Board software (“Navigate”). Coordinator of Strategic Retention Sarah Warrington provided an online demonstration of the software and explained the capabilities of this tool in assisting students and their advisors. Director of Institutional Research Alex Yin provided an overview of the software’s analytic capabilities, and Stephanie Kramer, a CAS Honors College sophomore, joined the presentation sharing her experience utilizing the app.

Other Business

Referencing the pre-distributed Work Plan in the meeting materials, Chair Dwyer invited Committee members to send any comments to her.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Dwyer, Chair
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:
Goals for the University of Vermont

Supporting the President’s Strategic Action Plan

These goals are established to animate President Sullivan’s Strategic Action Plan and facilitate University-wide discussions, engagement, and initiatives around Academic Excellence.

Success in these areas will lead, authentically and in a sustainable way, to increased selectivity, improved student quality, and improvements in national rankings and other reputational indicators.

These goals also serve as drivers to the University-wide IBB development process initiated in fall 2013.

1. Increase the percentage of undergraduate students graduating in four years
2. Improve undergraduate student retention, Years 1-4
3. Improve student advising, both academic and pre-professional/career
4. Increase interdisciplinary teaching, research, and scholarship
5. Expand programmatic offerings to include distance and hybrid modes of instructional delivery
6. Increase research and scholarship in areas that generate high impact, recognition, and visibility
7. Increase domestic diversity and grow international student enrollments across the University
8. Increase enrollments in graduate and professional programs

D. Rosowsky, Provost and Senior Vice President
October 24, 2013