University of Vermont | Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate
Minutes
Monday, August 26, 2024
4:00 – 5:30 PM, Waterman Memorial Lounge

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President Thomas Borchert at 4:02 PM

Senators in Attendance: 59
Absent: 18 Senators: Agriculture, Landscape, and Environment (Gorres), Anesthesiology Rep2 (Hart), Anthropology (Brouwer Burg), Curricular Affairs Committee Chair (Everse), Counseling, Human Development & Family Science (vacant), Economics (Law), Education Rep2 (Cowles), Mechanical Engineering (Fiorentino), English Rep1 (Gough), Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation (vacant), Pediatrics Rep 2 (Todd), Psychological Science Rep1 (Cepeda-Benito), Radiology Rep1 (Tsai), Rehabilitation & Movement Sciences (Smith), Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Chair (Hurley), School of the Arts Rep1 (McDowell), Social Work (vacant), Surgery Rep1 (Cockrell)

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1. **Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks** – Thomas Borchert made the following remarks:
    a. Senate meeting modality for AY 24-25 will include 2 in-person meetings each semester (August, October, February, May). All other meetings will be held on Teams.
    b. This summer, members of the University leadership worked together to conduct a review of policies, procedures, and communication strategies in relation to how the University responded to last spring's encampment. Efforts are being made to foster an environment of open and civil engagement and build understanding of rights and responsibilities as campus citizens. A website is being developed to refresh communication around these procedures and to provide resources around free speech. Free speech is also the theme of this year's Presidential lecture series. Tom Sullivan will give the first lecture on September 17, 4:30-6:00pm, Waterman 338, Memorial Lounge, titled "Free Speech Freedoms: From Core Values to Current Debates – Are we in a Crisis of Understanding?"
    c. Leadership transition at UVM as President Garimella has accepted the post of the President of the University of Arizona. In October, Provost Prelock will become Interim President at UVM. UVM will be engaged in a national search for our next President. The University Manual stipulates that each college and school elect a member of its faculty to serve on a faculty panel that in turn will put forward four of its members to serve on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. The Faculty Senate does not have a specific role.

d. Thomas Borchert's term as President of the Faculty Senate ends on July 1, 2025. A nominating committee is being appointed to search for candidates for Senate President. Former Senate Presidents, Chris Burns and Thomas Chittenden, will serve on the committee.

e. Best wishes in retirement to Catherine Symans, Assistant to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success. Catherine's behind the scenes work has contributed to the work of the Senate, including coordinating the provost's process for new program proposals, and coordinating academic program reviews.

2. **Degree Conferrals**
   It was moved, seconded and voted that the following numbers of graduates be recommended by the Senate to the President for the awarding of the appropriate degrees or certificates as authorized by the Board of Trustees. Individual names of the graduates will be recorded with the minutes of this meeting in the permanent Senate records.
   Degrees:
   - Agriculture and Life Sciences (28)
   - Arts and Sciences (63 Bachelor of Arts, 9 Bachelor of Science)
   - Education and Social Services (13)
   - Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (14)
   - Graduate College (141)
   - Grossman School of Business (17)
   - Nursing and Health Sciences (3)
   - Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources (15)

   Vote: 53 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. **The motion carried**

3. **Approval of the minutes** of the May 2024 Senate meeting.
   Vote: 46 approve, 0 oppose, 7 abstain. **The minutes were approved as written**.

4. **Call for Nominations for At Large Member to the Senate Executive Council**
   A call for nominations was distributed on August 19th for one open seat on the Faculty Senate Executive Council. The two-year term will begin immediately and end on June 30, 2026. All elected Faculty Senators are eligible to serve. The deadline for nominations is 4 PM on Friday, August 30, 2024.

5. **Update on Presidential Transition and Search** - Ron Lumbra, Chair of the UVM Board of Trustees spoke about the process and timing for the presidential search, what was learned from the last search in 2018, and the current market for university president. The search process will begin by seating a 16-member search committee by the middle of September to manage the search and advise the Board of Trustees, who will elect the next president. The Deans have initiated the process of identifying faculty members to serve on the faculty panel that in turn will put forward four of its members to serve on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. Those panel

members who are not elected to represent faculty on the search committee will have an opportunity to provide general input and to interview any finalist who comes to campus. In addition, a professional search firm is in the process of being hired to work with the search committee and to recruit and evaluate applicants. The initial phase of the search will include listening sessions to gather feedback from the community on the experience and leadership characteristics we would like to see in the next president. The anticipated timeline for the committee to see first round candidates is late in the year, and a short list is expected by early in quarter one. Provost Prelock will serve as Interim President upon President Garimella's departure this fall. Chair Lumbra stated that during the 2018 presidential search they learned that most candidates will not participate in a public process, and with the market today, we should not anticipate multiple public candidates. They also learned that the search committee must be appropriately representative, but small enough to be agile, because the competitive market may require an accelerated process. Although the current market for university president is competitive, UVM has positive momentum that will be attractive to candidates, including becoming an R1 institution, being a public flagship in a manageable state, and the UVM brand and reputation. Thomas Borchert has invited Chair Lumbra to report back to the Senate with updates during the search process.

6. **Gathering Faculty Senate feedback on the Presidential transition and selection process**. Thomas Borchert asked members of the Senate to form small groups to discuss the two questions below, and to provide feedback that will be compiled and shared with the Board of Trustees prior to the start of the search for the next president of UVM. A summary report of this feedback will be shared with the Senate in either September or October.
    1) What are three qualities that you would like to see in the incoming President? List in order of importance, with a sentence or two of explanation.
    2) Name 1-2 critical initiatives that you think should be key priorities for the next President of UVM?

7. **Orientation to the Faculty Senate**. Thomas Borchert provided an overview of the structure of the Faulty Senate, including the mission and function, membership, the roles and responsibilities of senators, and the process for establishing the senate agenda. Presentation slides are attached to these minutes. The September meeting will include an orientation to senate committees.

8. **Vermont Complex Systems Institute Proposal** – Alexa Woodward, Executive Director Complex Systems Center, Peter Dodd, Director Vermont Complex Systems Center, and Chris Danforth, Director of the Vermont Advanced Computing Center presented an overview of the proposal to establish a Vermont Complex Systems Institute at UVM. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes. The Faculty Senate Research, Scholarship, and the Creative Arts Committee reviewed the

proposal in the spring and a report of their review and recommendation will be included in the materials for the September Senate meeting.

9. **New Business** – none at this time

10. **Adjourn** – the meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM

Orientation

- Mission and Function
- Partners in Shared Governance
- Structure of the Faculty Senate
- Faculty Senators: Roles and Responsibilities
- Introduction to the Senate Standing Committees
- Questions and Discussion

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Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws

PREAMBLE

The administration and the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont share responsibility for the effective management of the academic affairs of the University. Authority in matters related to the academic mission of the University is vested in the faculty by the Board of Trustees.

This authority is exercised in the Faculty Senate by elected senators with voting privileges and by committees authorized to act on their behalf. Meetings of the Faculty Senate are presided over by a President and Vice-President and follow a town-meeting format at which all University faculty members have a voice. The activities of the Senate are overseen by an Executive Council.

CBL Last revised: October 2001.
Approved by the Faculty Senate November 19, 2001.
Approved by the Board of Trustees February 23, 2002. **Amended:** *May 1, 2006; March 14, 2011; April 23, 2012; February 13, 2014; November 12, 2015; December 23, 2015; April 9, 2021*

Mission & Function of the Faculty Senate

Under the authority of the Board of Trustees the University of Vermont Faculty Senate is empowered:

1.1   To review and establish policy with respect to the following matters: all curricular matters, research and scholarship, requirements for regular certificates and degrees, professional standards and criteria for positions accorded academic rank.

1.2   To review, to recommend, and to participate in the formulation of policy with regard to: institutional priorities; allocation and utilization of the University's resources; the establishment or elimination of colleges and departments; faculty appointment, promotion, tenure, dismissal, leaves, and economic benefits; admission procedures and quotas; student financial aid.

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Partners in Shared Governance

• The **administration**, led by the president and the senior vice president/provost, and the **Faculty Senate** share responsibility in managing the university's academic affairs.
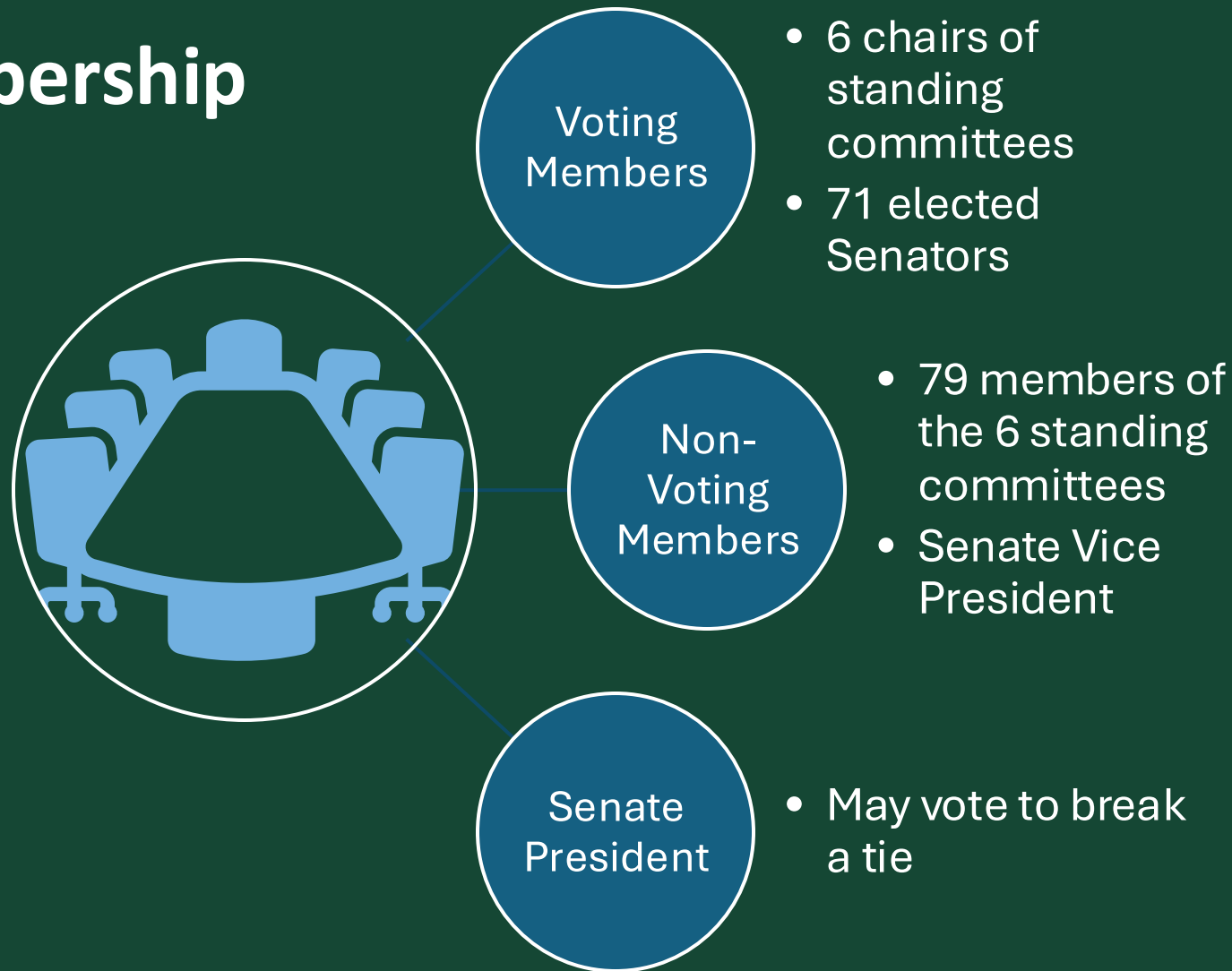
• The **Staff Council** works with the administration on issues and policies that affect university staff.

• The **Student Government Association** and **Graduate Student Senate** also play advisory roles to the administration, as well as recognizing student clubs and organizations and allocating funding.
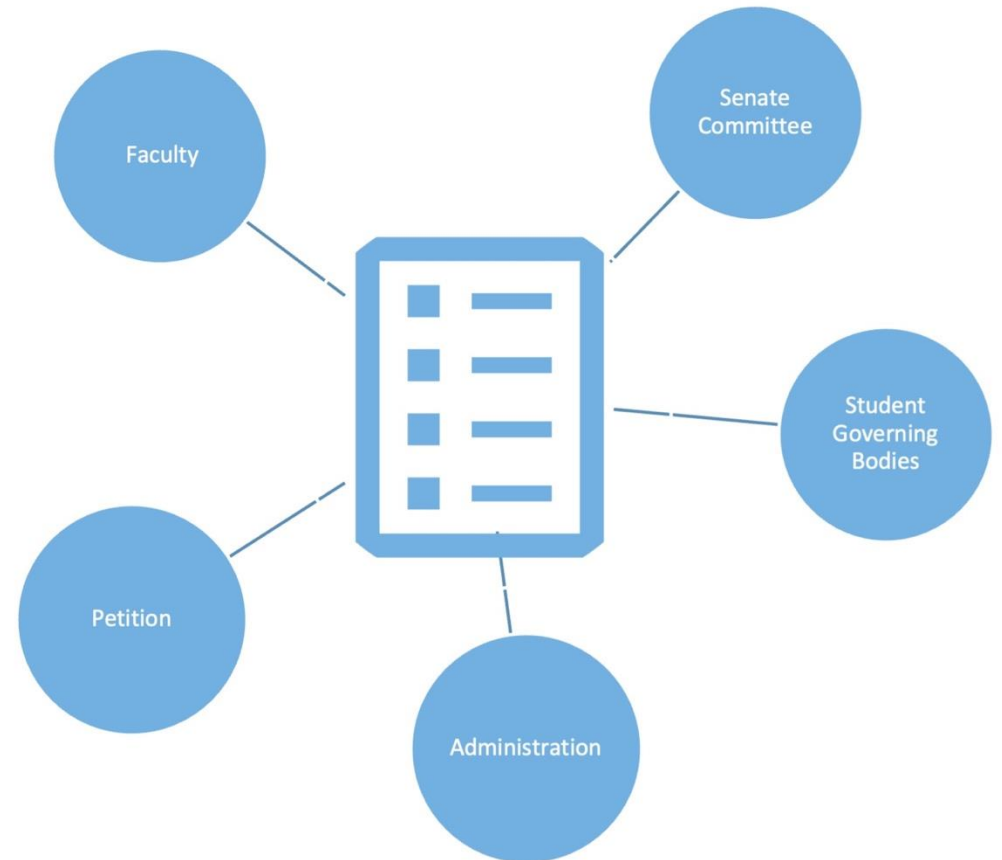
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Senate Membership

Voting Members
- 6 chairs of standing committees
- 71 elected Senators

Non-Voting Members
- 79 members of the 6 standing committees
- Senate Vice President

Senate President
- May vote to break a tie
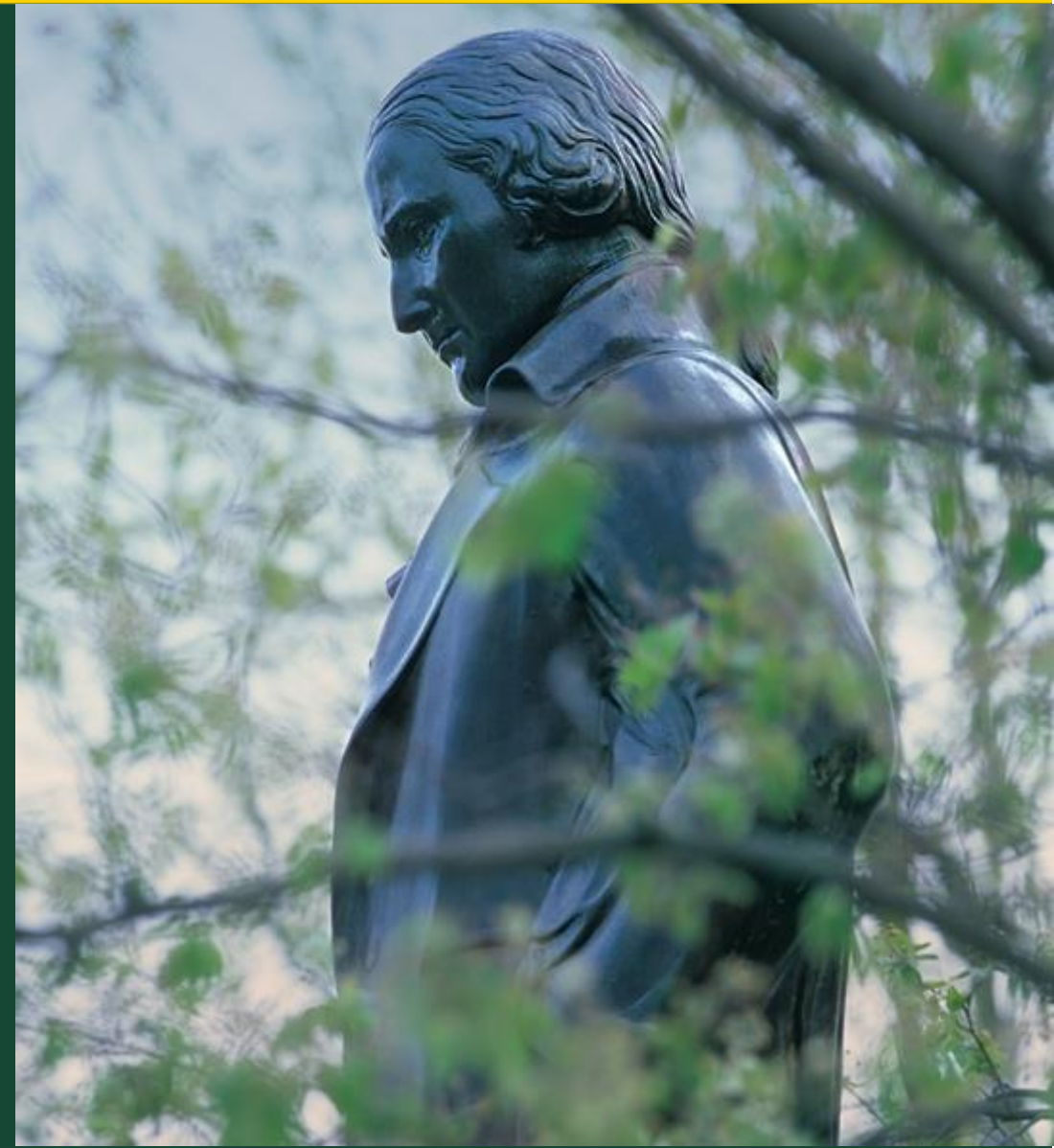
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Faculty Senate Agenda

The Executive Council prepares the agenda from proposals submitted from Faculty, Senate Committees, Student Governing bodies, Administration, or by Petition
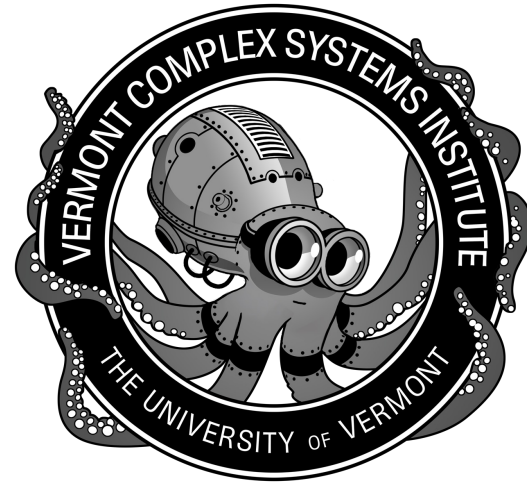
Senator Roles & Responsibilities

- Review meeting materials

- Attend, participate in discussion, vote

- Send a delegate

- Represent your unit

- Report actions pending and completed

- Adhere to Our Common Ground

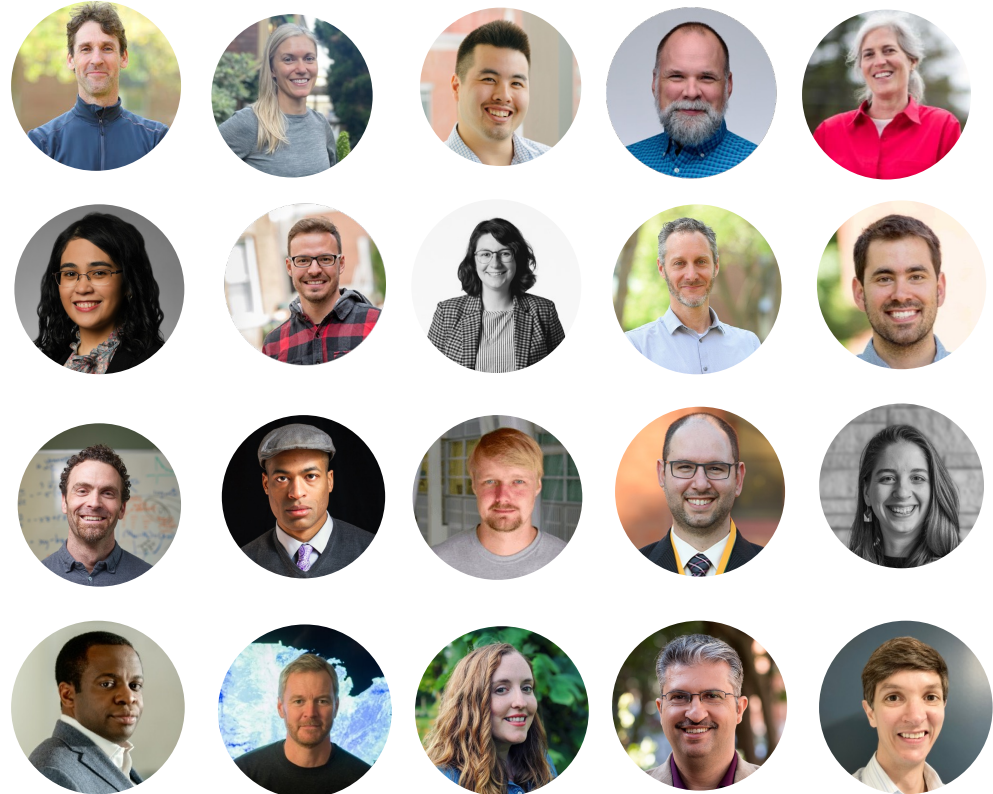University of Vermont

Vermont Complex Systems Institute

Overview and Future Plans

Our Research

We are a post-disciplinary team working on real-world, data-rich, and meaningful complex systems problems of all kinds:

- computational social science
- disease and information spreading
- open-source networks and ecosystems,
- data and AI ethics
- artificial neural networks and generative AI
- brain-human interfaces
- Evolutionary robotics
- large-scale, system problems in fields including sociology, nonlinear dynamics, networks, ecology, public health, and physics.

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Institute Vision

To be a world-renowned Institute in the basic science and education of data-rich complex systems with long-term, meaningful partnerships with government, community, private sector, and academic partners.

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Past and Future

Cluster hire of complex systems faculty and subsequent creation of center

2006

Masters in Complex Systems and Data Science launched

2015

$5M gift from MassMutual creates Center of Excellence in Complex Systems and Data Science

2019

NSF $20M EPSCoR grant SOCKS is awarded

2023

2009

Spire of Excellence; Complex Systems and Data Science Certificate created (alumni become MassMutual and Google partners)

2018

PhD in Complex Systems and Data Science launched

2022

VERSO is created with $600k in funding from Sloan Foundation

LEMURS sponsored research project begins ($2.5M)

2024

$4.5M MassMutual gift is renewed

VERSO funding renewed by the Sloan Foundation

2025

Vermont Institute for Complex Systems established as campus wide research resource under the Vice President for Research

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Core Projects

MassMutual
Center of Excellence in Complex Systems and Data Science
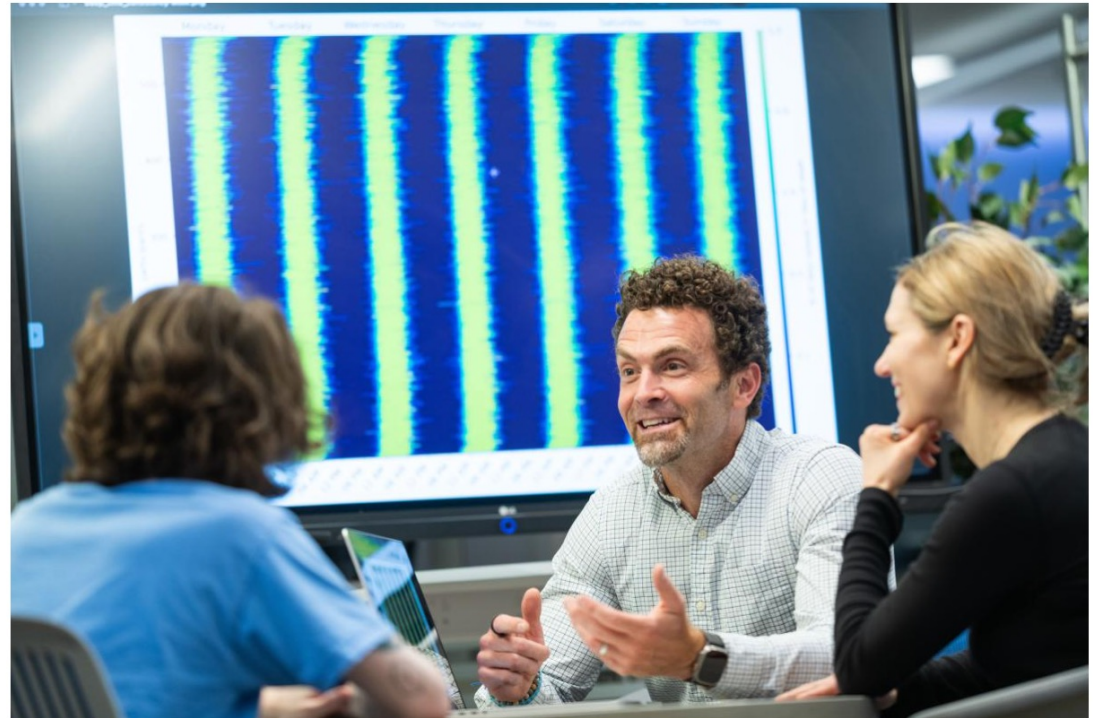
The MassMutual Center of Excellence in Complex Systems and Data Science has advanced a wide range of faculty and graduate student-driven research, ranging from the social contagion of ideas, the future of work, exploring large language models in health care, incentivizing healthy behaviors, and eliminating bias in AI. The CoE includes a multi-year research project, LEMURS (Lived Experiences Measured Using Rings study), exploring health interventions to improve longevity through a partnership with Oura ring.

MassMutual total funding: $12M ($9.5M gifts, $2.5M sponsored research)

Chris Danforth, Laura Bloomfield, and Matthew Price designed the LEMURS study to help young people be better versions of themselves using technology to give them personalized health feedback
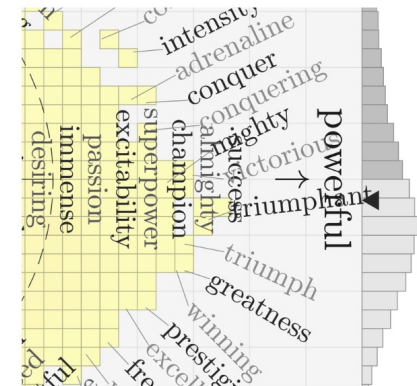
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Core Projects

With the NSF funded **Science of Online Corpora, Knowledge and Stories (SOCKS)** program, we're building and refining instruments that can 'distantly read' and make sense of enormous collections of texts. In astronomy and biology, the telescope and the microscope helped us describe phenomena far beyond our limitations, opening vast new scientific realms – today, our bespoke computational tools allow us to do the same with linguistic data.

National Science Foundation - EPSCoR Track 1
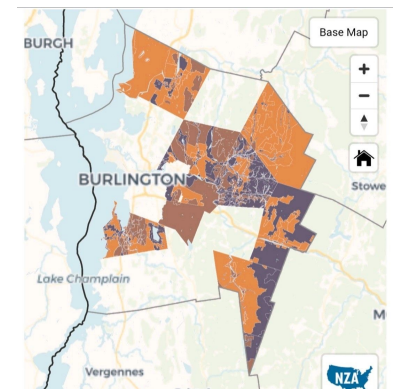$20M over five years

Core Projects

The Vermont ReSearch Open Source Program Office (VERSO) builds a university-wide open source community through educational activities, internships, research and community collaborations. Through the development of several open-source software initiatives, we train, engage, and empower students and researchers to learn how to contribute to an open-source project.

Sloan Foundation: $1.2M with 2024 renewal

Academic Life

Our research is highly collaborative and thrives in an academic ecosystem where undergraduate, masters, and PhD students work with our faculty and engage with funded projects. This ability to be immersed in data-rich research, solving real-world problems with external partners, is a defining element of our community and produces a diversity of solutions and ideas.
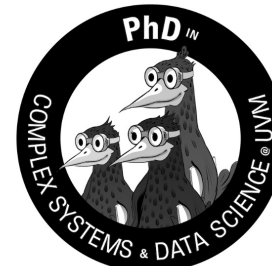

Undergraduate Degree in Data Science

Five-course Graduate Certificate in Complex Systems

MS in Complex Systems and Data Science

PhD in Complex Systems and Data Science

Collaborators

CALS
Asim Zia (CDAE)
Trisha Shrum (CDAE)
Scott Merrill (PSS)
Meredith Niles (NFS)

CAS
Pablo Bose (Geography)
Randall Harp (Philosophy)
Jenn Karson (Art)
Melissa Pespeni (Biology)
Matthew Price (Psychological Sciences)
David Punihaole (Chemistry)
Andrew Schroth (Geography)

CESS
Regina Toolin (Education)
Leon Walls (Education)

CEMS
Dave Jangraw (BME)
Jason Bates (BME)
Josh Bongard (CS)
Jeremiah Onoalopo (CS)
Donna Rizzo (CEE)
George Pinder (CEE)
Raju Badireddy (CEE)
Ehsan Ghazanfari (CEE)
Elizabeth Doran (CEE)
Randy Headrick (PHYS)
Mathew White (PHYS)
Tian Xian (EE)
Luis Duffaut Espinosa (EE)
Hamid Ossareh (EE)

CNHS
Michael Cannizzaro
Connie Tompkins

Extension
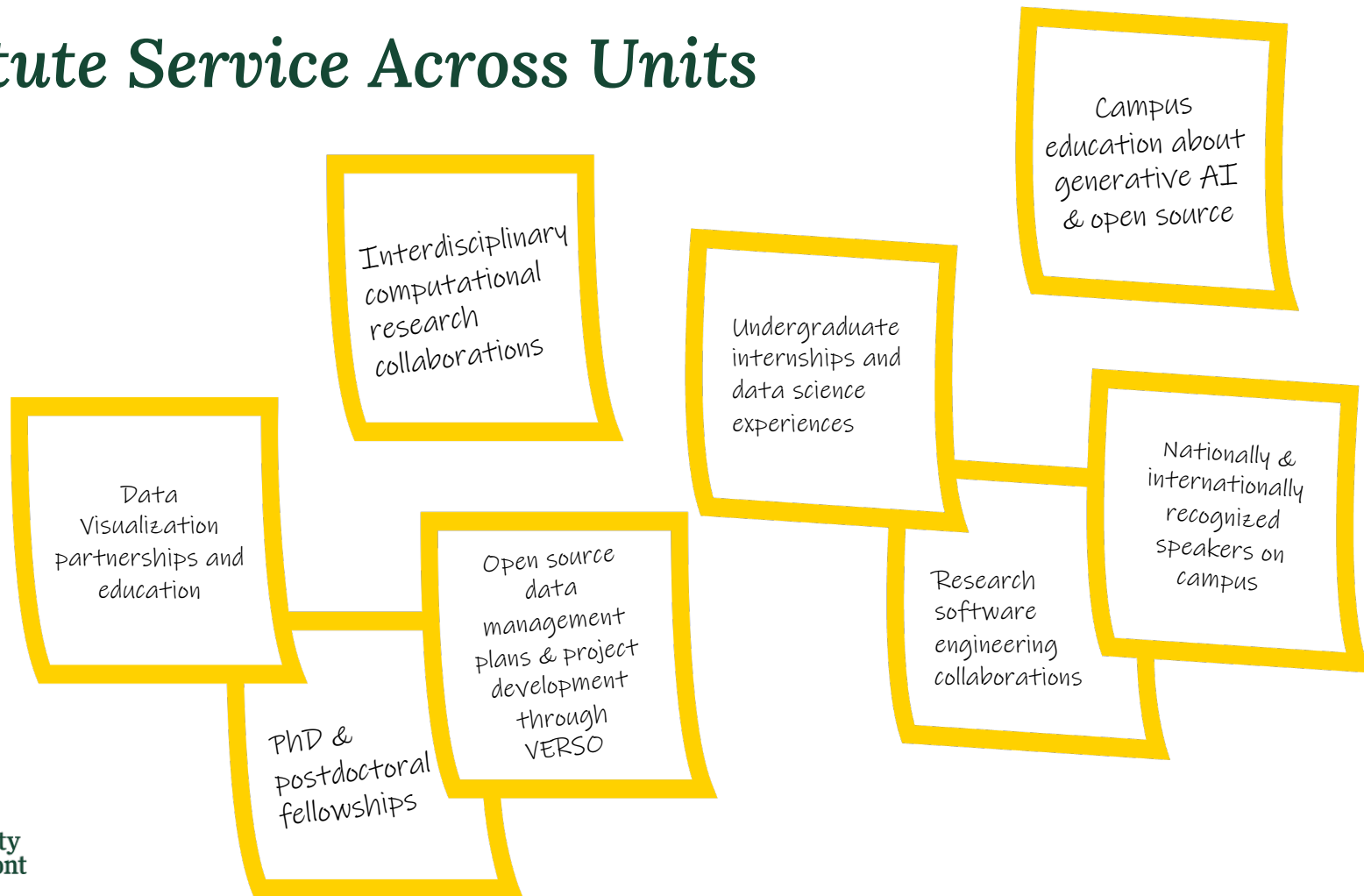Julie Smith
Josh Faulkner
Juan Alvez

Grossman
Bill Gibson

LCOM + UVMMC
Andy Solomon (Neurology)
Bill Copeland (Psychiatry)
Mitchell Tsai (Anesthesiology)
Timothy Dominick (Anesthesiology)
Michel Benoit (Orthopedic Surgery)
Ira Bernstein (OB/GYN)
Carole McBride (OB/GYN)
Macaulay Onuigbo (Nephrology)
Bob Gramling (Palliative Medicine)
Elie Donath (Internal Medicine)
Matt Mahoney (Neurological Sciences)
Rod Scott (Neurological Sciences)
Adam Atherly (Medicine)
Eline Van Den Broek-Altenburg (Radiology)
Matt Kinsey (Interventional Pulmonology)
Hugh Garavan (Psychiatry)

RSENR
Taylor Ricketts

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Institute Service Across Units

Campus education about generative AI & open source

Interdisciplinary computational research collaborations

Undergraduate internships and data science experiences

Data Visualization partnerships and education

Nationally & internationally recognized speakers on campus

Open source data management plans & project development through VERSO

Research software engineering collaborations

PhD & postdoctoral fellowships

University of Vermont

Advancing Shared Goals for People and Planet

1 Enhance expertise across UVM in data-rich complex systems, leveraging data science, machine learning and computational tools through a nexus of post-disciplinary research collaborations.

2 Provide world-class experiences in data-rich education and research to the university community, positioning UVM as a global leader in complex systems and data science.

3 Build a robust ecosystem of external academic, private sector, non-profit, state, and national partnerships that produces translational science with real world impact.

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Discussion/Questions

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To talk about how we can work with your college or to provide further input in our process, please contact:
Alexa.Woodward@uvm.edu