



**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)

- 
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 Lumbrá, 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 Faculty 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