



FACULTY SENATE

Minutes
September 10, 2012

Senators in Attendance: 56

Absent: Anesthesiology (Shapiro), Biochemistry (Silveira), CDAE (Eastman), Education (Walls), Extension (Nwadike), Family Medicine (Nicholas), History (Steinweis), Music & Dance (Neiweem), Nutrition & Food Science (Pritchard), Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Zweber), Pathology (Wilcox), Pediatrics (D'Amico), Philosophy (Weiner), Political Science (Bartlett), Psychiatry (Naylor), Psychiatry (Heil), Radiology (Green), Surgery (Adams), Surgery (Trotter), Prue (SAC)

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- 1. Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes of May 17, 2012 were approved as written.
 - 2. Senate President's Remarks.** President Roberts began her remarks by welcoming faculty back to campus. She also wanted to make sure faculty were aware of the upcoming staff union vote, and encouraged them to get the word out to staff who are eligible to vote in the election. She also highlighted the importance of staff on the UVM campus, and urged faculty to participate in staff appreciation week. President Roberts also introduced the new technology that is being utilized by the Faculty Senate. In an effort to keep more accurate records, iclickers will now be utilized for voting purposes. Finally, President Roberts introduced the new President of the University of Vermont, Tom Sullivan.
 - 3. UVM President's Remarks.** President Tom Sullivan welcomed faculty back to campus for the fall semester. He stated that he was excited to be able to visit with faculty in this way, and is looking forward to being present at many more Faculty Senate meetings in the future. President Sullivan briefly outlined where he believes he should initially be investing his time and attention. The four areas he targeted were: affordability and access to a UVM education, quality enhancement, aligning budgets with priorities, and finally revenue enhancement. President Sullivan envisions accomplishing an increased affordability and access plan many different ways including but not limited to, identifying public and private resources, advocate in Montpelier for adequate funding, focusing on UVM's strengths and priorities, and identifying and cultivating relationships in the greater Vermont community. Quality enhancement can be achieved many ways, but a President Sullivan would like to focusing on achieving an appropriate balance for a student to faculty ratio, considering the size and scope of graduate education, bring attention to the Sipres of Excellence, and investing in human capital. President Sullivan

also presented a few questions to guide decision making on campus to better align budgets with priorities, ensuring that UVM is living mission and vision.

Questions for the new President's plan included an inquiry of criticisms that he has received about UVM in his travels across the state. It was answered that he had been asked about UVM creating branch campuses across the state. This can be seen as an opportunity to increase awareness of the amazing projects all over Vermont from Extension, professional development opportunities, grants (such as Pell), and the research that goes on at UVM regularly. It is also important to remember that UVM will be hosting a form of online education in the future that will be able to reach a larger Vermont audience.

4. **Travel Policy Update.** Richard Cate gave an update on the travel policy work that has been carried over from last year. A per diem rate is being developed, and changes to the policy should be possible now that PeopleSoft has been upgraded to version 9.1 (summer 2012). The delay currently is due to research regarding situations and departments that the per diem rate may not be the best solution. So far, this project is on schedule. It was questioned if the per diem rate would be one set rate for domestic travel, and a separate single rate for international travel. It was answered that this is the model that is being constructed. Cate also acknowledged that the rates would support 80-90% of travel situations; however, there would be locations that could exceed the per diem rate.
5. **Provost's Remarks & Update (SIP, SVFA, Internationalization).** Provost Knodell updated the Faculty Senate on three major projects that have been in progress. The first to be addressed was the Strategic Initiatives Project. Provost Knodell recapped the make-up of the SIP initiative working groups (1/3 faculty, 1/3 deans, 1/3 administration). From these working groups, a few action items have been under development. The items that the SIP groups are working to refine and carry forward are revenue enhancement projects, an institutional grant program, and administrative review (comparable to academic program review).

The Strategic Values and Financial Assessment project has not moved forward since the Joint Committee report was delivered to the Faculty Senate at the May 2012 meeting and sent to the Administration. It was noted that a response to the report should be expected in either October or November.

Diversity and Internationalization was the last item to be addressed by the Provost. It is her goal to have increased international enrollment to 5% or higher over the next 5-6 years. The university will be partnering with an external entity to ensure that UVM has adequate visibility in foreign markets essentially accomplishing this goal. There are also two initiatives to recruit new Americans and Abenaki students. It was noted that attention is being spent not only on enrollment, but also retention of these students.

It was questioned where funding for these projects is coming from. It was answered that these initiatives are being supported by money newly reallocated from the general fund. It was also asked if there was a target date for the institutional grant to be in place. There is no set date for this grant to be in place yet. There is a committee working on how this will look and when it can be established.

- 6. SGA President Introduction.** Conner Daley, President of the Student Government Association introduced himself to the Faculty Senate. His remarks included SGA's plans for the coming academic year such as continued work on online course evaluations, advising and faculty advising development services, and working with Career Services to increase career prep and workplace skills development for students. SGA is also working on community relations with the greater Burlington area, campus noise issues, and the UVM tobacco ban. It was questioned if SGA was looking into the crowded library issues, after a recently published article in the Cynic addressing the concern. Conner answered that yes, the SGA has been in touch with the library to communicate about this issue. SGA is looking forward to continued collaboration with the Faculty Senate over the next academic year through routine communication, and representation on Faculty Senate Committees.

- 7. New Business.** Professor Nancy Welch requested a discussion on the recently issued Shumlin Report. This item will appear on the agenda for Monday October 8, 2012. Professor Bill Meirse gave notice that he will be presenting a motion to the Faculty Senate at the October meeting to establish a Faculty Senate committee on the Libraries. Finally, Professor Alison Pechenick noted that CEMS dean interviews would be taking place in the near future and Senate feedback is welcomed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 pm.