



FACULTY SENATE

Minutes  
November 11, 2013

Senators in Attendance: 59

Absent: Ambaye (Pathology), Green (Radiology), Hehir (Neuroscience), Mehrtens (Geology), Mirchandani (Engineering), Naylor (Psychiatry), Schapiro (Anesthesiology), Steinweiss (History), Tyzbir (Nutrition & Food Sciences), Vanden Burgh (BSAD), Waters (Chemistry), Wemple (Geography), Wittpenn (Pediatrics), Wu (Rehabilitation & Movement Science), Rodgers (PSC), Ross (FPPC)

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- 1. Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes of October 7, 2013 were approved with a correction to clarify Professor Jones' comment regarding international engagement. His comment was referring to a greater policy issue, not a logistical one, on where the responsibility lies to create accommodations for ESL students. This should be addressed in the context of individual teaching assignments as well as assessment tools.
  - 2. Senate President's Remarks.** President Roberts began her remarks by reminding the Senate that this spring elections for a new Senate President will be held. This position is elected a year in advance of the term start date as to allow the president elect to learn more about the Senate. President Roberts urged Senators to start thinking about nominations for the election. Any questions about the position should be directed to the Faculty Senate Offices. President Roberts wanted to also take time to recognize and thank Veterans for their service.
  - 3. IBB Update.** The Faculty Senate Executive Council collected information from the various subcommittees of the IBB planning process. Only a few subcommittees provided an update on their work to date. Most of the updates were that the subcommittees had met and had introductory discussions on their specific topic matter. The Interdisciplinary subcommittee is in the data collection phase of their work. The group has recently circulated a survey to collect information about what interdisciplinary work already occurs on campus. The link to the survey was sent out in News You Should Know this week. It is important to note that not all subcommittees provided information on their progress.
  - 4. UVM President's Remarks.** President Sullivan wanted to start by thanking the faculty who are working on the IBB subcommittees. There are roughly 80 faculty members actively engaged through serving on or co-chairing a subcommittee. He also wanted to

say that he thinks the process is off to a good start and that there is a lot of interesting and challenging work ahead.

President Sullivan also wanted to let the Faculty Senate know that more information about possibly working with Vermont Law School to offer a 3/2 program will be coming shortly. The idea behind the 3/2 program is that students would graduate with an undergraduate and law degree after 5 years of coursework at both institutions.

Other items of business the President wanted to address included the new service award for faculty. The planning of this award has been led by Professor Judy Cohen, and will honor a faculty member who has demonstrated long-term, sustained service to the UVM community. This award will be given annually with the nomination process rolling out in the spring.

The President invited faculty to participate in the budget discussion forum to be held on October 15<sup>th</sup>. He also encouraged Senators to inform their departments of this venue for conversation about the budget. The administration is committed to having a transparent conversation about the budget and associated planning process and would like feedback from the faculty. Conversations will continue across campus to help UVM community members to better understand the structure, challenges, and other aspects of the budget.

Finally, the President closed his remarks with a short review of the progress being made on the STEM Lab Complex proposal. The Space Planning Committee has been working to develop a design for the labs and teaching spaces. They are expected to have a report to the Provost sometime in February 2014. This is projected to be roughly a 100 million dollar project. The project will be sent to the Board of Trustees for approval sometime this coming spring.

5. **Student Advising.** Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, Jennifer Prue, along with Professor (and SAC member) Professor Karla Karstens addressed the Senate with information on Student Advising. They were joined by three student representatives, Taylor Ducharme, Kayln Ricardo, and Samantha Hickey. The committee has been working on drafting a document to guide and improve student advising. One important aspect of the evolution of student advising is the implementation of the new student hub in the Davis Center. The hub will become a resource for students seeking help with basic advising needs such as technical assistance with registration. There were some questions about advising loads, and the academic alert system. The committee noted that these are good areas to consider and encouraged all faculty to bring questions or feedback about the current advising process to either Chair Prue, or the Faculty Senate Offices. The next step for this draft document is to bring it back to the Faculty Senate for discussion to gather feedback to further develop it.
6. **General Education Sustainability Update.** Deane Wang and Laura Hill Birmingham, co-chairs of the committee on Sustainability gave an update of their work to the Senate. The structure of the committee and parts of their process has been designed after the committee on Writing and Information Literacy. Currently the committee is looking for feedback on the learning outcomes, and is hoping to provide many different venues for comments on this topic. Some possibilities include but are not limited to, discussion at

faculty meetings within departments, a discussion and vote in the Faculty Senate, and an open forum. The committee is discussing the opportunities and challenges that come from addressing sustainability through learning outcomes rather than a structured course on the topic.

- 7. General Education Diversity Update.** Eileen Cichoskikelly and Brian Reed are co-chairing the committee on Cultures, Diversity, and Global Perspectives. The committee has two goals for their future work. The first is to review the D1 and D2 guidelines and courses to determine if they are still relevant and reflect the desired outcomes of General Education. The second is to propose a system for assessment. Last spring, the committee held a student forum to gain a better understanding of the student experience in order to inform the assessment and outcome language. This fall the committee held a similar forum for faculty who have been teaching D1 & D2 courses. At this forum the committee was looking at gathering information about the ability to which faculty were able to incorporate the competencies in their courses, how to strengthen the competencies and language, and also how to move forward to assess this work over time. One theme that is emerging from the data analysis is that there needs to be a better distinction between a D1 and D2 course. It was questioned if UVM would maintain the D1, D2 model. The committee responded that they were unsure at this time, however, more than likely the same model will remain in place with some changes to reflect the General Education outcome language and goals.
- 8. New Business.** Professor Sarah Heiss inquired about the new Walk Policy that the Senate had passed last spring. Currently, there is an out of date version posted to the UVM website that is causing confusion between faculty advisors as well as Deans Offices. After some discussion it was determined that the old policy was posted on a webpage for a past commencement ceremony and that the updated policy may be found on the Provost's website and the December 2013 commencement page. The old policy will be removed from the web to avoid confusion in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm.