



FACULTY SENATE

Minutes
October 7, 2013

Senators in Attendance: 54

Absent: Achenbach (Psychiatry), Adams (Surgery), Ambaye (Pathology), Couch (Surgery), Cowan (Family Medicine), Feldman (Political Science), Green (Radiology), Hehir (Neuroscience), Hudspeth (RSENr), Light (Libraries), Liptek (Chemistry), Lounsbury (Pharmacology), Naylor (Psychiatry), Schapiro (Anesthesiology), Tyzbir (Nutrition & Food Sciences), Wilcox (Pathology), Witkin (Sociology), Wu (Rehabilitation & Movement Sciences), Prue (SAC), Rodgers (PSC)

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- 1. Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes of September 9, 2013 were approved as written.
 - 2. Senate President's Remarks.** President Roberts' remarks were brief stating only that the Office of Undergraduate Research is currently conducting a survey and she encouraged faculty to participate. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes and may be found on their webpage. The other announcement she made was to remind Senators that the next Faculty Senate meeting will be held in the Sugar Maple Ballroom in the Davis Center as to accommodate the Veteran's Day Celebration that will be taking place in Memorial Lounge.
 - 3. Degrees.** 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 are recorded with the Minutes of this meeting in the permanent Senate records.

Agriculture and Life Sciences	11
Arts and Sciences	54
Business Administration	10
Education and Social Services	9
Engineering and Mathematics	8
Environment and Natural Resources	2
Graduate College	86
Honors College	0
Medicine	0
Nursing and Health Sciences	35

- 4. UVM President's Remarks.** President Sullivan began his remarks by informing the Faculty Senate that he has sent requests from the SGA regarding curricular matters to the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee for consideration. He also announced that he is exploring a possible degree program partnership with Vermont Law School. This is being researched with the help of Brian Reed, the CAC, and faculty at VT Law. President Sullivan took this opportunity to encourage deans and other university leadership to consider advancing graduate program proposals of their own to the Curricular Affairs Committee.

Other updates included the start of the FY15 budget process which has just begun to provide 8-9 months of discussion before presenting a budget to the Board of Trustees; and the gender equity study is now underway for faculty with a final report due in February.

- 5. UVM Provost's Remarks.** Provost Rosowsky gave an update on the IBB planning process. Currently, the steering committee and subcommittee membership of roughly 100 individuals has been announced. The [IBB website](#) is a great resource for learning more about IBB and those involved in the transition. The website includes project timelines, committee rosters, reports, presentations, and other informational resources to frame the project better for the UVM community. There is also the capability to submit feedback about IBB and the transition process on the website. The Provost also noted that he is looking forward to utilizing a more strategic budget model, and is available to meet with anyone who would like to get more information or discuss the transition. Professor Pechenick inquired about what metrics would be used to assess the success of the IBB once it has been implemented. Provost Rosowsky answered that this is something that he was currently looking into by assessing what peer institutions that have a successful IBB system use as metrics. Once a list is compiled, UVM can determine which metrics best fit our institution.

Next the Provost spoke about retention trends at UVM, which have been going in the wrong direction over the past 2-4 years. This is something that the Provost is focused on changing as retention is tightly tied to university rankings. This should be a shared concern for everyone on campus and something every unit works to improve.

- 6. Timeline for New Programs.** Chair of the Curricular Affairs Committee, Cathy Paris gave a presentation on the timeline for proposing new programs. This is especially important due to the administration's encouragement to develop new graduate programs. The process is outlined complete with critical dates for the proposal approval timeline on the Faculty Senate website homepage ([Critical Dates in the Proposal Review Process](#)). Professor Cohen asked if it were possible to have increased visibility of where programs are throughout the approval process. Currently, there is no way to view the progress publicly; instead, one must contact the Faculty Senate Office to find out. There were some questions regarding committee meeting frequency (twice as opposed the current monthly meeting schedule), and the involvement of the Graduate College Executive Council, however, these were all clarified in the updated document that is posted on the Faculty Senate website. Finally, Chair Paris offered that if anyone needed more guidance

during the proposal process she was available to answer questions. Questions may also be directed to the Faculty Senate Offices via phone at 656-2041.

- 7. Online Course Change Procedure.** Assistant Provost, Kerry Castano presented the new automated Course Action Form process via [CourseLeaf CIM](#). The electronic system provides visibility for both users and approvers to track changes through the approval process. Any faculty or staff member can access the system with their UVM netid and password and can run reports for any pending or finalized changes. CourseLeaf gives the capability to not only review the workflow of proposed changes, but also to add comments, make edits, and show available course numbers for new courses. The website has information and support contact information as well as .pdf guides to assist users in learning the new system. It was requested that YouTube support videos be provided for some of the more complicated steps. Kerry answered that this was a possibility but would not be available immediately. Another question from the Senate concerned adapting this software to support the proposal approval process. This is a transition that *may* be possible, but would require more research.
- 8. International Engagement.** Associate Provost, Gayle Nunley provided an update on UVM's efforts in international engagement. International engagement isn't just one project, rather, it is a host of activities that not only market UVM on a global scale but also effect students that attend UVM, service the University participates in, and other programs such as study abroad. The goal of increasing the University's engagement level is to ultimately expand the international undergraduate population from 2% to 5-7% over the next 3-5 years. This will be done through gateway programs, which are targeted at students who have a solid base in English speaking and writing skills, however, still require some support in English for academic purposes (within one half point of the regular undergraduate admission standard). This program will provide two terms of English for academic purposes in which students will learn skills such as how to write a research paper, critical thinking, and presenting an argument. UVM looks forward to launching this program in January, however, once it is up and running, there will be multiple admission points throughout the year to accommodate different international academic calendars.

Associate Provost Nunley made it clear that UVM was working to create a strong sense of community for international students as soon as they arrive on campus. In an effort to accomplish this, there are courses already being offered on global issues, culturally based living areas in the L/L complex, and a "Global Neighbors" program in the residence halls.

There were questions and concerns raised by Senators that will require additional investigation and attention that were logistical in nature and specifically focused on coursework and access to learning materials such as course notes. This is something that could possibly be done via the ACCESS office in the future. Finally there was some confusion regarding the faculty member's role in the classroom in terms of assisting these students through course content.

- 9. New Business.** Vice President, Stephanie Kaza wanted to inform the Senate that the Socially Responsible Investment Committee has transitioned to become the [Socially](#)

[Responsible Investing Advisory Council](#) to the Board of Trustees. This year they will be holding a town meeting on Tuesday, October 22, from 4-6pm in the Livak Ballroom and welcome everyone to attend and bring proposals to. The group also has a new website that is a great resource for current news & events, as well as information on current and past actions the University has taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.