



FACULTY SENATE

Minutes
October 13, 2014

Senators in Attendance: 53

Absent: Ambaye (Pathology), Argnarsson (Biology), Cohen (Family Medicine), Cohen (Nursing), Contompasis (Pediatrics), Dempsey (BSAD), Forbes (Theatre), Franklin (Classics), Green (Radiology), Hehir (Neuroscience), Maltby (Nursing), Naylor (Psychiatry), Perry (Extension), Pinder (Engineering), Schapiro (Anesthesiology), Spitzform (Libraries), Rodgers (PSC), Ross (FPPC), Vacant (Nutrition & Food Sciences), Weiss (Medicine), Wilcox (Pathology), Witkin (Social Work)

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- 1. Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes of September 8, 2014 were approved with corrections. The retail price of the Doctoral Regalia was incorrect and should have read \$750.00 not \$75.00.
 - 2. Senate President's Remarks & Introduction of New Senators.** President Roberts announced that the election for the next Faculty Senate President has come to a close. She was pleased to introduce the Faculty Senate President Elect, Lisa Aultman-Hall.
 - 3. Presentation of 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	25
Arts and Sciences	60
Business Administration	10
Education and Social Services	5
Engineering and Mathematics	7
Environment and Natural Resources	8
Graduate College	115
Honors College	0
Medicine	0
Nursing and Health Sciences	6

4. UVM President & Provost's Remarks. President Sullivan shared that Homecoming weekend was a success and a great opportunity to socialize with alumni, trustees, and other UVM community members. Next year at this time a public announcement will be made regarding the new comprehensive campaign that will focus on three main priorities including:

- Affordability and financial access / scholarships
- Investing in talent at UVM (Endowed Chairs, Awards, etc.)
- Investments in academic programs

The overarching theme of this campaign is “academic excellence” and links strongly to what the University’s strategic action plan. It is President Sullivan’s goal to make sure that we are successful investing at all three levels of this campaign.

Provost Rosowsky announced that this past September there had been a communication circulated to the UVM community which included 2 attachments. The first was a narrative document outlining the Academic Excellence Goals, and the second was Across the Green. The Academic Excellence Goals document outlines exactly how UVM defines academic excellence, what the goals are, how we get there, and how progress will be measured. The number one priority, as mentioned in previous presentations, is to increase the number of undergraduates that complete their degree in 4 years. Other goals include but are not limited to: improving retention, improving academic and pre-professional advising, increasing interdisciplinary scholarship, generate high impact scholarship and visibility, increase domestic diversity, and increase the international student population. It is important to note that in this document there is no explicit statement about the academic curriculum, or rigor as a tool to accomplish these goals. This was done purposefully as those are both items that are the purview of the Faculty Senate. Provost Rosowsky is however, looking forward to continuing the discussion of academic rigor with the Senate as it is a major component of the compact that students enter into with the University once they begin to pursue their education here.

5. Sustainability Committee. Laura Hill-Birmingham and Deane Wan, co-chairs of the General Education Committee on Sustainability provided the Faculty Senate with an update on their work thus far. They began with a brief history of how the sustainability outcomes came to be, and the structure of the Sustainability Curriculum Review Committee (SCRC). The SCRC is a fully representative committee with faculty serving from each academic unit, as well as a representative from the Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate. Faculty should consider submitting their courses for approval by the SCRC to be included in a docket of approved courses. There was a question about how study abroad type programs would be evaluated as meeting the sustainability curriculum criteria. It was answered that the committee has tried to prioritize their work and are currently focusing on curricula that is on campus, and then they will be able to broaden their focus to a few study abroad programs. Some programs that the committee may begin with include the Costa Rica Field Study program that UVM runs currently.

6. Curricular Affairs. Chair of the Curricular Affairs Committee, Cathy Paris, brought one item of business for Faculty Senate consideration. The Vermont Cancer Center has requested to change their name to the University of Vermont Cancer Center. This name

change would show the clear alignment the center has with the medical center as well as emphasize the academic and research aspect of their mission. There was no discussion, and when put to a vote, the proposed name change was approved.

It was also announced that there is a Fall 2014 / Spring 2015 proposal review time table document posted to the Faculty Senate Website (under “quicklinks” on the far left). This is an important document to consider for those looking to bring proposals to the Faculty Senate for approval.

- 7. Standing Committee Report.** Thomas Chittenden and Jennifer Prue, Co-Chairs of the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee gave a brief overview of the work their committee will be addressing this year. One major project the SAC is looking into is alternate configurations for final exam week. The goal of this would be to increase the number of fall teaching days and increase faculty autonomy over the last two weeks of classes. One of the possibilities being explored would be to remove the final exam schedule all together and convert that week into a week of regular instruction days. This would give faculty full control over how they would like to end the semester. This change would also have an impact on how the calendar ultimately affects academic rigor, and student behavioral excesses. The committee will be soliciting feedback at a later date. The goal of this potential change would be to have the calendar reflect a commitment to academics, overall student health, and rigor.

Other topics of interest include: having the academic calendar start after Labor Day with a long Thanksgiving break, ACCESS letters and how accommodations are handled, and finally club advising expectations.

The committee urged Senators to bring other issues to the attention of the Co-Chairs, the Faculty Senate Offices, or their College Representative on the committee.

Committee representatives for any Faculty Senate Standing Committee may be found on the [Faculty Senate website](http://www.uvm.edu/~facsen): www.uvm.edu/~facsen

- 8. Small Group Discussion on Academic Rigor.** John Ryan kicked off the discussion on Academic Rigor by giving a presentation of student engagement data. After the Senators had a chance to look at the data, trends, and ask a few clarifying questions, they broke into small groups for discussion. The notes that came as a result of these discussions will be presented at a later date.

- 9. New Business.** There was no new business at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Memo To: The Faculty Senate
From: The Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Cathy Paris, Chair
Date: September 22, 2014
Subject: Approval of a proposal to change the name of the Vermont Cancer Center to the University of Vermont Cancer Center

The Curricular Affairs Committee at its meeting of September 11, 2014 unanimously approved the action recommended in the following memo.

The Vermont Cancer Center requests approval to change its name to the University of Vermont Cancer Center. The impetus for the change is the desire to more clearly associate the Cancer Center with the University of which it is a part and to emphasize the Center's academic mission in research and education. It would also bring the Center's name into alignment with the overall rebranding of Fletcher Allen Health Care as the University of Vermont Medical Center.

Recognizing the compelling logic of the name-change argument, the Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate unanimously approved the name change at its meeting of September 11, 2014.

UVM Process for the Development and Review of New Program & Policy Proposals

Prior to receipt by the Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate:

- Faculty proposal development;
- Departmental/Program Curriculum Committee and Chair or Director approval;
- College/School Curriculum Committee and Dean approval;
- (Graduate Programs) Graduate Executive Committee and Graduate College Dean approval. The Graduate College Executive Committee meets twice per month;
- Provost review and transmission to the Faculty Senate;
- Following the approval by the Curricular Affairs Committee, the proposal is sent to the Faculty Senate Executive Council for approval for placement on the Senate agenda.

Critical Dates in the New Program & Policy Review Process Fall 2014

Curricular Affairs Subcommittee Assignment	Curricular Affairs Committee Meeting	Senate Executive Council Agenda Set	Senate Executive Council Meeting	Faculty Senate Meeting ¹	Board of Trustees Meeting
September 11	October 9	September 22	September 29	October 13	October 17
October 9	November 13	November 10*	November 17	December 8	February 5
November 13	December 11	December 8 *	December 15	January 12	February 5
December 11	January 8	January 19	January 26	February 9	May 15

¹ Proposals that have been approved by the Senate then go through the Vice President of Executive of Operations to the President and Provost. They will have 30 days to respond.

* These dates are irregular to reflect UVM holidays

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- Provost review and transmission to the Faculty Senate;
- Following the approval by the Curricular Affairs Committee, the proposal is sent to the Faculty Senate Executive Council for approval for placement on the Senate agenda.

Critical Dates in the New Program & Policy Review Process Spring 2015

Curricular Affairs Subcommittee Assignment	Curricular Affairs Committee Meeting	Senate Executive Council Agenda Set	Senate Executive Council Meeting	Faculty Senate Meeting ¹	Board of Trustees Meeting
December 11	January 8	January 20*	January 26	February 9	May 15
January 8	February 12	February 17*	February 23	March 9	May 15
February 12	March 12	March 16	March 23	April 13	May 15
March 12	April 9	April 20	April 27	May 14	October 16**

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** Due to Board of Trustees deadlines