



FACULTY SENATE

Minutes  
January 12, 2015

Senators in Attendance: 60

Absent: Cowan (Family Medicine), Franklin (Classics), Hehir (Neuroscience), Jones (BSAD), Knodell (Economics), Naylor (Psychiatry), Paris (CAC), Perry (Extension), Prue (SAC), Rodgers (PSC), Schapiro (Anesthesiology), Stokes (Libraries), Weiss (Medicine), Wilcox (Pathology), Wu (Rehab & Movement Science)

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- 1. Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes of December 8, 2014 were approved.
- 2. Senate President's Remarks.** President Roberts welcomed Senators back from the holiday break. Due to the full agenda she kept her remarks limited.
- 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	47
Arts and Sciences	126
Business Administration	22
Education and Social Services	27
Engineering and Mathematics	33
Environment and Natural Resources	13
Graduate College	70
Honors College	6
Medicine	1
Nursing and Health Sciences	9

- 4. UVM President & Provost's Remarks.** Provost Rosowsky shared a few quick updates on the Incentive Based Budgeting implementation. The administration has had the opportunity to run real budget numbers and examples through possible scenarios and have looked at the possible outcomes. This resulted in very productive conversations at various levels. There have also been implementation presentations given by Richard Cate. There is up-to-date information available on the [Provost's webpage \(http://www.uvm.edu/provost/IBB/\)](http://www.uvm.edu/provost/IBB/) for anyone who is interested in reading more about the implementation, or reading the IBB Final Report which is due to be posted later this month. This website is updated regularly and is a great resource for keeping up with what is happening with the IBB implementation process.

The Provost expressed the importance of IBB and its link to academic excellence and student success. He also noted that although the budget model has changed, the core values of our institution had not. This budget model shift also isn't expected to change the culture of our institution. The administration has strived for an open and transparent process and stressed that this communication style only amplifies the goals and principles of Our Common Ground. IBB is an ever evolving model that will continually be reviewed and assessed. UVM will continue to make strategic decisions, meet goals, and create a sustainable future and IBB will be one tool to focus attention to meeting those objectives.

There were some questions about new enrollment strategies, especially with the population of traditional applicants declining, and the increased interest in international student populations. Provost Rosowsky suggested that the Faculty Senate invite Stacey Kassel, Vice President of Enrollment Management to a future meeting to give more details on this topic.

Another topic of interest was academic advising and how it relates to faculty performance reviews. Advising plans have been developed by the Deans and submitted to the Provost. These plans will be reviewed, and shared with faculty, and feedback taken into account. Once they have been accepted, they will be posted in a place where faculty and students can access them for reference. These plans will also interact with the advising hub that came as a result of the Student Affairs Committee work on student advising.

5. **Curricular Affairs.** President Julie Roberts announced that the proposal that was on the agenda for the Curricular Affairs portion of the meeting had been withdrawn. There was no other Curricular Affairs business to discuss at this meeting.
  
6. **Standing Committee Report: Research, Scholarship, and the Creative Arts.** Chair of the RSCA, Chris Burns gave an overview of the charge of the RSCA and reported activity from this academic year along with plans for future work. The committee changes their agenda from year to year dependent on new administrative initiatives, especially those that have a direct impact on faculty in research, scholarship, and graduate education. This year the committee will be looking at the impact IBB will have, especially on interdisciplinary research. The committee also serves as a review group for the Burack Lecture Series applications as well as the University Distinguished Professor nominations. The Dean of the Graduate College, and the Vice President for Research are involved in committee meetings and work collaboratively with the RSCA.

This year the committee issued a survey to the Deans that asked questions about their preceptions of how IBB would impact research, scholarship, and graduate education. The results of the survey were expected, and showed that very little could be forecasted due to the fact that UVM is still in the early implementation stages. One positive reflection that came from the survey was that the change to IBB will increase flexibility at the College level. There were comments on how the F&A rates may change, specifically in relation to interdisciplinary ventures.

The RSCA is also working on getting a review of how the Burack Lecture Series is doing in terms of attendance and impact. The report received from Gary Derr's office reflects that there have been over 2,000 in attendance at an average of 105 people per lecture.

There was a question about what the Taft building was going to be used for, and if it would be research space. President Sullivan answered that the new contract that allows UVM to lease the Taft building for the next 180 years is a very exciting opportunity to have added space for faculty in the creative arts to display their work. After renovations, the old elementary school will be turned into a studio arts space

for the Art, Art History, and Historic Restoration departments to utilize.

One request from the Senate floor asked the RSCA to look into getting feedback from visiting Marsh professors.

7. **Standing Committee Report: Professional Standards Committee.** This agenda item has been rescheduled to appear on the February Faculty Senate agenda.
8. **Sustainability Curriculum Review Committee Update.** Laura Hill-Birmingham and Deane Wang presented an update from the SCRC. They are planning to bring the sustainability general education requirement to the Faculty Senate for a vote at the next meeting (February 9, 2015) and were looking for feedback on the proposed language. This update also served as an opportunity to answer any lingering questions before the proposal was brought to the Senate for a vote. The update included information about the workshops the SCRC held for faculty, the course submission process, and the course submission matrix. There is currently a growing list of sustainability courses at UVM, and the group is hopeful that this will continue based on the amount of interest from the workshops they have held so far.

The goal of the sustainability general education outcome is to have students leave a sustainability course with the knowledge it takes to have a thoughtful conversation about the three levels of sustainability (economic, social, and ecological). This would be done in a course, curriculum, or co-curricular activity that introduces the four learning outcomes and reinforces them with a component such as a reading or activity. This is what the SCRC will be looking for when they go through the review process when considering if a course will meet the sustainability requirement. The committee has discussed the future possibility of having a sustainability certificate as well.

Dean Matthews from the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources shared with the Senate that she believes this is a move in the right direction and was something that caught her attention when visiting UVM prior to her hire. She is excited about the passion and commitment UVM has demonstrated for sustainability.

There was also a request for an “elevator pitch” to quickly explain what the sustainability general education requirement will mean for potential and incoming students. The committee responded that they could come up with something and would share it with the Faculty Senate. They also did note however, that there is no one definition of sustainability because it is multidimensional.

The Hill-Birmingham and Wang also made sure to be clear that because there wasn't just one pathway to accomplish this, the requirement will be flexible for each discipline. Some departments may choose to have one standalone sustainability course, where others might offer all four outcomes over the course of their curriculum, or departments could also offer a co-curricular component to their coursework that would meet this requirement. It is important to note however, that the SCRC is currently focusing primarily on courses in their workshops and review process.

There was a request for the Registrar to run the scenario of all proposed sustainability courses being approved. This could show how many students could complete this requirement semester by semester based on historical enrollment.

It was suggested that the catalog language be presented within the motion at the vote next month. The catalog language is expected to mirror that for the general education writing requirement.

Finally, there was some concern from College of Arts and Sciences faculty that there wouldn't be many

courses within CAS for their students to take based on the list of courses presented. The SCRC co-chairs offered to run a workshop for CAS faculty particularly. There will also be representation from the SCRC committee to answer questions at the next CAS faculty meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 pm.