

DRAFT



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Monday, March 23, 2020

Online via Microsoft Teams 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Recording of this meeting is available on Microsoftstream:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/ec502182-a66c-47b3-ae2e-9c641de22ed0>

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

Senators in Attendance: 61

Absent: Senators Mierse (Art & Art History), Almstead (CAC), Bailly (Classics), Kete (English, Rep 1), D’Amato (RSEN, Rep 1), Read/Toolin (ERTC), Yang (Mathematics & Statistics, Rep 2), Knakal (Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation), Gardner (Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Rep 1), Sidiropoulos (Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Rep 2), Moore (Pediatrics, Rep 2), deRosset (Philosophy), VonDoepp (Political Science), Lach (Radiology), Prue (SAC)

1. Faculty Senate President’s Welcome Remarks – Thomas Chittenden’s opening remarks included:

- Richard Cate’s presentation on the financial status of UVM has been postponed until the April Senate meeting
- No Votes will be held at this meeting. Votes will be held at the April Meeting. The Senate leadership is working on a plan & protocol to officially record votes taken during an online meeting of the Senate in a way consistent with current practices employed and in conformance with our bylaws and the blessing of our Parliamentarians.
- The proposed Ad Hoc Comprehensive Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee will be charged in April by the Faculty Senate Executive Council. A document outlining the charge for this ad hoc committee is attached to these minutes.
- Pass/Fail (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) Discussions Update – The Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee will be taking this up at a special meeting on Thursday.
- Nominations for President Elect and Member At Large – Laurie Eddy announced the following nominations have been received:
 1. For President-Elect, Thomas Chittenden has received several nominations, and has accepted. Nominations were received for three additional candidates; however, the nominees declined the nomination.

2. For Members At-Large, three nominations were received. Brian Beckage received a nomination to serve a second term, and he has accepted the nomination. The second nominee declined the nomination, and the third nominee is pending.

Nominations will be accepted until 6 p.m. today through the online webform located on the Faculty Senate webpage, or by email to Faculty.Senate@uvm.edu. Electronic ballots will be distributed in early April, and will be open for one-week. Election results will be announced at the April Senate meeting.

2. President Garimella was originally scheduled to speak on the zero-tuition increase, but instead focused remarks on the university's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Remarks and response to questions included:
 - COVID-19 Emergency Operations group is meeting multiple times each day, to make decisions informed by on-campus public health experts, the Vermont Department of Health, the CDC, and government agencies and officials. Input and feedback is also received from other similarly situated research universities, students, faculty and staff, and member of the local, state and international community.
 - Comments/concerns should be routed through the Deans, who are in continuous contact with the President & Provost
 - Remote instruction will continue through remainder of the semester. All summer instruction will also be remote. What is learned this semester will help inform the outlook for Fall.
 - A decision on commencement will be made soon. Feedback from graduating students is being gathered through a survey.
 - Admitted Student Visit Days are a challenge. Virtual ASVs are being developed.
 - Campus is not closed. We are encouraging telework, and are following guidelines from the Department of Health for those that cannot work from home. Each lab should be engaged in planning, in the event that there is a "stay at home" order by the Governor. We anticipate there will be exemptions, and will make decisions based on what Governor's order is.
 - Concerned about staff well-being and safety. President Garimella asked the VT congressional delegation for protection for staff. Staff may borrow 2 additional weeks of sick leave. It is hopeful that the Federal Government will provide more sick leave.
 - Details are being worked out to credit students for unused housing and meals. This is an enormous financial investment.
 - Concerns about the tenure clock are addressed in the faculty contract, which allows junior faculty to request an extension on tenure.
 - Much thought and discussion is happening around a pass/fail option for grading. The withdrawal date has been extended to April 3rd.
 - President Garimella thanked the faculty for stepping up to the plate and doing their best for the university. He urged everyone to continue the robust way we were doing business, and to keep an eye on big picture, including the work on General

Education. The zero tuition raise remains critical, but the in-depth discussion must be postponed until a later date.

3. **Corona Virus (COVID-19) and University Preparedness** – Gary Derr, Vice President for Operations and Public Safety, provided an overview of the work of the Emergency Operations Group, which has been meeting continuously over the past weeks. Several sub-committees have been actively addressing particulars, including business continuity, supply chain and match, communications, education and outreach, student issues, faculty and academic affairs, HR employee issues, and research. Information is channeled and funneled through these subcommittees. Within the groups are groups charged with logistics, and tasked with working through possible solutions. Any policy decisions are run up to the President and Provost for final decision. An Institutional Continuity Group has been meeting in conjunction with the Emergency Operations Group to address broad policy issues. These are challenging times and difficult decision, but everybody has been working with the safety, health and wellbeing of all members of our community in mind in all decisions they are making.
4. **General Education Process Update** – J. Dickinson, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, presented an update on the General Education Framework. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes, and available in the meeting video recording. The reports of the individual ad hoc committees have been posted on the UVM General Education website. The reports are not the refined framework, but they informed the refined framework. The proposed title of the framework is the Catamount Core. Two open forums have been scheduled via Microsoft Teams to allow questions and feedback from the community. The forum dates are 3/25 from 11 – 12:30 and 3/31 from 11:30 -1pm. J. Dickinson anticipates bringing the final Catamount Core framework to the Senate for vote at the April 20th Senate meeting.
5. **Ricard Cate on the University Financial Situation** – Richard Cate’s presentation was postponed to a later date due to lack of time.
6. **New Business – none at this time**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Ad Hoc Comprehensive Constitution and By Laws Review Committee

University of Vermont Faculty Senate

Last Modified 1/17/2020

Issue: The Constitution and Bylaws (CBL) of the Faculty Senate was last *revised* in October of 2001¹ and over the last 20 years opportunities for increased clarity have surfaced inspiring interest in codifying changes in this important document.

Proposal: To charge a Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee to convene during the 2020-21 academic year to perform a comprehensive review of our constitution and bylaws. This committee would be specifically charged with:

1. Soliciting and collecting campus wide perspective on the current CBL of the Faculty Senate.
2. Reviewing and considering specific language and structural changes for improved clarity and functioning.
3. Reviewing and considering potential structural changes to the organization of the Senate for improved engagement of Senators and effectiveness in carrying out the charge of the Senate.
4. Drafting an articulated list of proposed revisions to move forward for consideration by the University of Vermont Faculty, Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees.
5. Consulting with all available past Faculty Senate Presidents & Vice Presidents on all proposed changes prior to presenting them for ratification.
6. Formally presenting all proposed changes for a vote no later than the January 2021 regularly scheduled meeting of the full Faculty Senate.

Committee Composition:

Ex Officio Members of the Ad Hoc Committee:

1. Faculty Senate Vice President
2. Faculty Senate Secretary

Faculty Senate Executive Council Appointed Representation:

1. A serving member of the 2020-21 Faculty Senate Executive council
2. Two currently serving Faculty Senate Members (Senators or Standing Committee members).
3. Two Faculty members at large.

Background:

Items have surfaced over the past few years as opportunities for revising our CBL to have clearer and more inclusive language. Small language changes like adding 'Faculty Scientist' as an eligible member of our body to large changes like adding a standing committee on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity or restructuring the relationship of the committees to the full Senate have surfaced in conversation.

Revisions to this document would require an affirmative vote by the Faculty Senate or the Faculty Senate Executive Council, then a UVM Faculty Vote requiring 2/3 of the respondents in favor. The January deadline in the charge is proposed to allow the timeline for any revisions be considered during the 2020-21 academic year while the ad hoc committee is charged (our current CBL limits the length of any Ad Hoc committee to exist no longer than one academic year).

¹ https://www.uvm.edu/faculty_senate/faculty_senate_constitution_and_bylaws. Minor amendments happened in 2006, 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2015 but the last major 'revision' was in 2001.

First Look: Refined General Education Framework

J. Dickinson
Associate Provost
Academic Affairs



CATAMOUNT CORE
CURRICULUM



CATAMOUNT CORE

C U R R I C U L U M

Appreciation and Thanks

To the General Education Alignment Task Force and the ad hoc committee members for their tireless work in a short time frame!

Seven ad hoc committees, with **70** faculty experts and **8**

Alignment Taskforce co-chairs conducted over **20 hours** of meetings and additional online work over the course of **4 weeks**.

Background

- Summer 2019: Alignment Task Force charged, begins work
- Fall 2019: Task Force drafts vision, initial framework. Call for additional category proposals.
- January 2020: Catamount Core Framework presented to Faculty Senate and in February open forums. Ad hoc committee nominations received and ad hoc committees formed
- February/March: Ad hoc committees met and drafted recommendations, revised category descriptions, course approval criteria, and draft student learning outcomes



Framework Refinement Process

1. Ad hoc committee reports submitted to Faculty Senate Executive Council and Gen Ed Alignment Task Force (early March)
2. Feedback received from FS Exec Council (mid-March)
3. Task Force, guided by mission and Gen Ed vision statements, balances recommendations of the ad hoc committees (3/20)
4. Draft refinements presented to Faculty Senate and in March open forums (Microsoft Teams) (3/23; 3/25/3/31)
5. Refined Catamount Core framework circulated to campus (early April)
 1. Further discussion and vote at April or May Senate meeting

Gen Ed Alignment Process: Vision and Goal

Vision: UVM General Education should expose students to the intellectual breadth of the liberal arts, develop the skills needed to integrate and apply diverse areas of knowledge, and build the foundations for lifelong learning and active participation in local and global communities.

Goal: A General Education curriculum that will prepare our students to become the “accountable leaders who will bring to their work dedication to the global community, a grasp of complexity, effective problem-solving and communication skills, and an enduring commitment to learning and ethical conduct” described in the UVM mission statement.



NECHE requires a Gen Ed curriculum that:

- Is “coherent and substantive. It embodies the institution’s definition of an educated person and prepares students for the world in which they live.” (Standard 4.16)
- “Informs the design of all general education courses, and provides criteria for its evaluation, including the assessment of what students learn.” ((Standard 4.16)
- Shows “a balanced regard for what are traditionally referred to as the **arts and humanities, the sciences [and] mathematics, and the social sciences.**” (Standard 4.17)
- Has “**students complete at least the equivalent of 40 semester credits** in a bachelor’s degree program.” (Standard 4.18)





CURRENT UNIVERSITY WIDE GEN ED STRUCTURE (15 credits)

D1	RACE AND RACISM IN THE U.S.
D2	DIVERSITY OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE
FWIL	FOUNDATIONAL WRITING AND INFORMATION LITERACY
QR	QUANTITATIVE REASONING
SU	SUSTAINABILITY



CATAMOUNT CORE CURRICULUM

PROPOSED: January 2020

CATAMOUNT CORE is made up of 42 credits in courses distributed across three main areas: LIBERAL ARTS (18 credits); CORE SKILLS (12 credits); and COMMON GROUND VALUES (12 credits).

Students will be able to take courses that fulfill more than one category BUT they MUST still take at least 40 unique credits of courses that have been approved to fulfill CATAMOUNT CORE CURRICULUM requirements.

LIBERAL ARTS

18 CREDITS

H1, H2, H3 HUMANITIES AND ARTS
6 credits

S1 SOCIAL SCIENCES
6 credits

N1, N2 NATURAL SCIENCES
6 credits

CORE SKILLS

12 CREDITS

QR QUANTITATIVE REASONING

FWIL COMMUNICATION 1
Foundational Writing and Info Literacy

WIL2 COMMUNICATION 2
Writing and Info Literacy Tier 2
or

OC Oral Communication

IA Integration and Application of Knowledge in the Major

COMMON GROUND VALUES

12 CREDITS

D1 DIVERSITY 1

D2 DIVERSITY 2

SU SUSTAINABILITY

GC GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

SJ SOCIAL JUSTICE*

* SOCIAL JUSTICE is a co-requirement that can be attached to a course approved in any of the other COMMON GROUND VALUES.

Recommendations from ad hoc committees:

1. *Social Justice* needs further development; implement a course designation, not part of Gen Ed. Courses may fit with Global Citizenship.
Task force: accepted recommendation
2. *Global Citizenship* will now have two pathways; recommend reviewing relationship between GC and D2 once the curriculum is implemented.
Task force: accepted recommendation
3. *Humanities and Arts* name change to Arts and Humanities.
Task force: accepted recommendation
4. *BOTH WIL2 and Oral Communication* be required.
Task force: did not accept recommendation
5. Add 3 credits of Mathematics. Change QR to Quantitative and Data Literacy that can not be fulfilled by Mathematics.
Task force: accepted recommendation; further refinement needed
6. *Integration and Application of Knowledge* reaffirmed the value of this requirement within the General Education framework.
Task force: removed this requirement to allow for stronger Quantitative requirements



REVISED: March 2020

CATAMOUNT CORE CURRICULUM: *Draft Revision - March 2020*

CATAMOUNT CORE is made up of 42 credits in courses distributed across three main areas: LIBERAL ARTS (21 credits); CORE SKILLS (9 credits); and COMMON GROUND VALUES (12 credits).

Students will be able to take courses that fulfill more than one category BUT they MUST still take at least 40 unique credits of courses that have been approved to fulfill CATAMOUNT CORE CURRICULUM requirements.

LIBERAL ARTS

21 CREDITS

H1, H2, H3 **ARTS AND HUMANITIES**
6 credits

S1 SOCIAL SCIENCES
6 credits

N1, N2 NATURAL SCIENCES
6 credits

MA **MATHEMATICS**
3 credits

CORE SKILLS

9 CREDITS*

QD **QUANTITATIVE AND DATA LITERACY** 3 credits

FWIL COMMUNICATION 1
Foundational Writing and Info Literacy
3 credits

WIL2 COMMUNICATION 2
3 credits from:
Writing and Info Literacy Tier 2
or
Oral Communication

*IA has been removed

COMMON GROUND VALUES

12 CREDITS*

D1 DIVERSITY 1
D2 3-6 credits
DIVERSITY 2
0-3 credits

SU SUSTAINABILITY
3 credits

GC GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
3 credits

*SJ has been removed

Next Step: Offer Feedback:

Open forums (URL will connect to a Teams meeting):

3/25 from 11-12:30 <http://go.uvm.edu/eh3v6>

3/31 from 11:30-1 <http://go.uvm.edu/rgyto>



The administration and the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont share responsibility for the effective management of the academic affairs of the University.

Authority in matters related to the academic mission of the University is vested in the faculty by the Board of Trustees. This authority is exercised in the Faculty Senate by elected senators with voting privileges and by committees authorized to act on their behalf. Meetings of the Faculty Senate are presided over by a Senate President and Vice-President and follow a town-meeting format at which all University faculty members have a voice.

Elected Senators



Senators are the elected representatives of their academic units to the Faculty Senate. Senators are responsible for communicating with the faculty in their units about all Faculty Senate actions, as well as bringing information from their academic units to the attention of the Senate and Senate Committees. [Elected Senators for 2019-2020](#)

FACULTY SENATE FAQs



FACULTY SENATE SUGGESTION BOX



FACULTY SENATE
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS



The UVM Faculty Senate meetings are open to the public, and are generally held on the fourth Monday of each month from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. in the Waterman Memorial Lounge. The May meeting is an exception to the general meeting pattern.

NOTICE:

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be:

Monday, January 27, 2020

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.,

Waterman Memorial Lounge.

· [January Meeting Agenda and Materials >>](#)

· [2019-2020 Senate Meeting Schedule >>](#)

Other key elements:

- **Three curricular areas:** Liberal Arts, Core Skills, Common Ground Values
- **40 credit rule:** Students can “double dip,” but they must still take 40 credits of Gen Ed approved courses overall
- **Central Approval:** A university-wide Gen Ed Curriculum committee will approve courses; current Gen Ed committees will be folded into this larger committee
- **A Gen Ed Coordinator** will oversee the curriculum. Half-time, faculty position



Detailed Timeline for Spring 2020

January 2020	Final Draft Framework discussed with senior leaders
January 27, 2020	Review of framework at Faculty Senate meeting; call for nominations for ad hoc committees to refine Gen Ed category criteria
February 2020	Ad hoc committees empaneled and working (up to Spring Break) *Open forums: February 12th and February 20th
March 2020	Alignment Task Force revises curriculum based on ad hoc committee work *Open forums: March 25th and March 31st
March 23, 2020	Revised Gen Ed categories/framework presented for discussion
April 20, 2020	Continued discussion and vote on Gen Ed Framework
May 2020	Gen Ed curriculum presented to Board of Trustees

TENTATIVE Implementation Timeline

Academic Year	Implementation Goals
2020-2021 2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establish Gen Ed Curriculum Committee- Begin course approvals for all categories.- Units address curriculum and catalogue changes to align with Gen Ed
2022-2023	Phase 1 adding in Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Gen Ed requirements for class of 2026. Ongoing assessment of capacity based on course approvals for new categories.
2023-2024	Goal to begin phase 2 implementation for class of 2027 for all remaining Gen Ed categories, including adding Mathematics and QD, and phasing out QR.
2023-2025	Assessment of progress, and opportunity to consider some revisions to the curriculum. Spring 2024: 5-year interim report to NECHE.

Questions?



The University of Vermont