



The University of Vermont  
FACULTY SENATE

**Minutes**

Monday, December 16, 2019  
Memorial Lounge 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

**Senators in Attendance: 68**

**Absent:** Senators Pace (Anesthesiology), Agnarsson (Biology), Cote (Communication Sciences & Disorders), Near (Computer Science), Cowels (Education Rep 1), Beckage (Plant Biology), Macias (Sociology), Carleton (Theatre & Dance)

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

- The Faculty Senate is seeking nominations for one Member At-Large to the Faculty Senate Executive Council. This is a special election to fill a one-semester vacancy during a sabbatical leave. The elected Member At-Large will serve a 6-month term beginning immediately after election in January 2020 and ending June 30, 2020. Thomas Chittenden called for nominations from the floor. No nominations were made from the Senate floor. One nomination has been received via webform, for David Massell, History. Deadline for nominations is Wednesday, December 18, 2019. The election will be held by electronic ballot, distributed via email to all elected Senators on January 6, 2020. The ballot will be open for one-week and close on January 13, 2020.
- The Financial & Physical Planning Committee (FPPC) of the Faculty Senate will be bringing forward a resolution on UVM divestment from the fossil fuel industry.

2. **Consent Agenda**

The following items were voted en bloc as a consent agenda:

- a) Minutes of the 11/18/19 Faculty Senate Meeting  
*Curricular Affairs*
- b) New Minor in Biosecurity (CALs)
- c) No Contest Termination BA in Engineering (CEMS)
- d) Policy Documents: Revisions to the Timeline for Policy & Proposal Review Process
- e) Report Out (no vote required): Substantial Changes to the Global Studies Major & Minor

**Motion:** To approve the consent agenda as presented.

**Vote:** 93% approve, 4% oppose, 4% abstain. The motion carried.

3. **Curricular Affairs: Proposal to Deactivate an Academic Program & Proposal to Reactivate an Academic Program** – Laura Almstead provided background and an overview of the policies. The proposals are attached to these minutes.  
**Motion:** To approve the Proposals to Deactivate and Reactivate an Academic Program  
**Vote:** **88% approve**, 4% oppose, 9% abstain. The motion carried.
4. **Impact of the basing of the F35 at the Burlington International Airport (vote)**  
Thomas Chittenden reminded Senators that the motion (attached to these minutes) was moved by senators and is ready for vote. Members were invited to speak in favor or opposition to the motion. Thomas Chittenden relayed a message opposed to the motion from one of the signatories. Meaghan Emery read a statement of support for the motion from Richard Single, Mathematics & Statistics. No additional statements were made. Thomas Chittenden called a vote on the motion.  
**Motion:** To endorse the statement presented in the resolution signed by Senators and presented to the Faculty Senate.  
**Vote:** 42% approve, **44% oppose**, 14% abstain. The motion failed.
5. **Diversity Curriculum Review Committee Competencies Update**– Pablo Bose presented the proposal for revised competencies for the D1 and D2 General Education Diversity requirement. The presentation slides and revised competencies are attached to these minutes.  
**Motion:** To approve the revised competencies for the D1 and D2 General Education Diversity requirements.  
**Vote:** **92% approve**, 5% oppose, 3% abstain. The motion carried.
6. **UVM’s contract with Elsevier’s Science Direct** – Dean of Libraries Bryn Geffert presented an overview of UVM’s relationship with Elsevier. The Libraries are facing the expiration of the contract with Elsevier at the end of 2020. Deliberations have begun regarding a decision to renew the contract. In-depth consultation with faculty is planned before a final decision is made. Dean Geffert presented a context for the deliberation, the current landscape of scholarly publishing, and why UVM is considering walking away from Science Direct. Dean Geffert provided a handout of frequently asked questions, which is attached to these minutes. Dean Geffert is hoping to visit all UVM departments this Spring to engage faculty in conversation about UVM’s Science Direct contract and the potential impact of walking away from Science Direct. He welcomes invitations from departments, schools and colleges.
7. **Residential Learning Communities Ad Hoc Committee (RLCAHC) Update** – Chris Burns and J. Dickinson presented an overview of the final report of the Joint Committee on Residential Learning Communities (RLCAHC), including the guiding principles of the committee report, and the recommendations of the committee. The final report and the presentation slides are attached to these minutes. Richard Cate, Vice President for Finance, presented the Provost response to the report, on behalf of Provost Prelock. The attached slides include

the Provost's AY 2020-21 plan for implementing some of the recommendations of the RLCAHC. Questions and comments from the floor included the following topics:

- the need for a curriculum committee for RLCs for curricular review and assessment,
- concern that there is a curricular advantage of LCOM 001, and the need for oversight to address curricular inequity.
- Concern regarding the Senate role in academic oversight and curricular coordination
- Structure and membership of the curricular committee for RLCs will include faculty associates

**8. New Business** – none at this time

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.**