

DRAFT



FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council

March 1, 2021, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Minutes

Present: Professors Burns, Ahern, Beckage, Borchert, Chittenden, Cushman, Delaney, Eyler, Giangreco, Ikeda, Knodell, Wood

Absent: Professors Almstead, Prue, Read

Guests: J. Dickinson, David Jenemann

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 PM on Microsoft Teams.

1. **Minutes** of the January 25, 2021 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Degree Corrections.** Laurie Eddy presented requests for degree corrections from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Honors College.
Motion: Terry Delaney moved to approve the degree corrections as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.
3. **Chair's Remarks** - Chris Burns made the following remarks:
 - a. Welcome Thomas Ahern, newly elected member at large.
 - b. A draft document of a proposed Academic Unit Restructure Review Process was sent to the Executive Council members for comment. This process would apply to proposals that are less curricular, and more administrative restructuring, such as the potential proposals for creation of a School of the Arts in CAS. The goal is to have a process similar to CAC processes, like the recently passed proposal for terminating programs. Feedback should be sent to Chris by Friday, March 5th. The proposed process will be presented to the Faculty Senate at the March 15th meeting.
 - c. In response to the Faculty of Color Retention Resolution passed at the February Senate meeting, an ad hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee will be formed.
 - d. Due to the delayed academic calendar this Spring, conferral of some May degrees will be voted by the Executive Council at a special Teams meeting on May 27th.

4. **Residential Learning Communities** – J. Dickinson reported that a small group has been working on transforming the Learning Communities (LCs) towards a more collaborative structure. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes. Meetings with stakeholders have helped identify the challenges and issues with the current system. The Provost decided last Spring to eliminate the one-credit courses after the Fall 2020. The plan moving forward is to connect LCs to existing courses across units. The new plan will be phased-in over time, and the Associate Deans must be actively involved in choosing courses. Executive Council members should reach out to J. Dickinson with questions and comments about the proposed new structure for academic integration for the LCs. Raf Rodriguez and J. Dickinson would like to present this new structure to the Faculty Senate at the March 15th meeting.
5. **Academic Reorganization Update** – Dave Jenemann shared slides from the work group open forum held on February 24th. The slides and recording are available on the Academic Reorganization webpage <https://www.uvm.edu/provost/academic-reorganization>. The website also includes a list of the members of the working group and subgroups, a list of the thematic input sessions scheduled over the next month, and a new webform for feedback. Dean Jenemann acknowledged the importance of communication, and the need to cultivate trust, and stated that the work group is committed to being as transparent and open as possible. By April, the work group expects to have a good sense of the raw data from the input sessions, which will inform the path forward for writing a proposal for academic reorganization. The presentation to the Senate of the path forward is anticipated for the April or May Senate meeting.
6. **Agenda for P & P Meeting** Tuesday, March 9, 4:00 – 4:45 PM
Several topics were discussed. Chris Burns will draft an agenda and email to Executive Council members by Friday.
7. **Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting March 15th.** Chris Burns stated that the CAC will meet on Thursday, and will most likely have some items for the consent agenda. The draft agenda for the March Senate meeting will be finalized and distributed to the Executive Council for approval on Friday, March 5th, and distributed to Senators on Monday, March 8th.
8. **New Business – none at this time.**
9. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.

New Structure for Academic Integration: UVM Learning Communities

Raf Rodriguez

J. Dickinson



The University of Vermont

Stakeholder Meeting Timeline

- Associate Deans: November 2020
- Student Services Collaborative/Registrar's Office January 2021
- LC Staff February 2021
- LC Campus Partners February 2021
- Faculty Senate March 2021

CURRENT SYSTEM: REQUIRED COURSEWORK



Wellness Environment, one 3-credit course, fall only

All other communities, one 1-credit course, fall only (Arts & Creativity, Cultural Crossroads, Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Leadership & Social Change, Outdoor Experience, Sustainability)

CURRENT SYSTEM: CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

EXPENSE: The current model requires significant overload pay and other compensation

STAFFING

- Administrative oversight, management and coordination from both academic and Res Life sides
- Given the many demands on staff and faculty time, difficult to staff the 1-credit courses

EFFICACY AND SUSTAINABILITY

- The shift to Learning Communities **DID increase** community and contributed to retention
- Role of the courses in these positive outcomes was unclear
- Courses did not provide the vehicle for bridging academics and co-curricular components
- There was variability across the individual courses/experiences associated with the LCs and within LCs

CONTRIBUTION TO ACADEMIC MAJORS/DEGREES

- 1-credit courses have not connected clearly to academic programs, goals, or needs; don't build clear ties between LC and academic interests.

NEXT STEPS

DECISION: ELIMINATE DEDICATED 1-CREDIT COURSES. 2020-2021 will be the last year for these.

PLAN: CONNECT LCs TO EXISTING COURSES ACROSS UNITS. PHASE-IN STARTING IN FALL 22. Rather than have stand-alone courses for each LC, but unconnected to majors/degrees, we want to send students out to existing courses that reflect the themes/issues of each LC. Crucial elements of this, to be phased in over time, would be:

- **Multiple courses available, across units, for each LC:** Ideally we would have a list of at least 4-5 courses affiliated with each LC, so that students could chose/be placed into ones that fit their interests and their degree needs
- **Programming/supports within LC tied to those courses:** Events/advising/study supports would be planned within the LC for affiliated courses.
- **Faculty engagement:** Faculty teaching affiliated courses would be offered pdf funds to arrange events and activities associated with their class, which could be held in the Learning Community. The process for organizing the distribution principles and event coordination for those will be developed by the implementation planning committee

Organizing Structure

Implementation Planning Committee - collaborating across multiple working groups and teams to support the creation and execution a comprehensive Learning Community academic integration plan (reps include: J Dickinson, Raf, reps from: SSC, Assoc. Deans, LCs, Enrollment Management, Faculty)

LC Leadership Group – explore and develop new strategies for (a) creating/maintaining a strong sense of community without a FY course and (b) connecting students with UVM faculty in support of theme experience.

Faculty-in-Residence Working Group – Will develop a proposal outlining the Faculty in Residence role to the IPC

Learning Community Campus Partners – bridges a student's LC experience from the admissions experience through orientation

Associate Deans Working Group- will work on establishing course options that align with each LC and that can be offered in a "rotating menu" over time; will develop curricular connections and ideas for academic components of LC experience in years 1 and 2