



FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council
March 21, 2022, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
Minutes

Present: Professors Borchert, Eyler, Burns, Bonifield, Delaney, Everse, Julianelle, Knodell, Lopez-Vicuna, Paris, Read, White

Absent: Professors Cushman, Gould, Kervick, Prue

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM on Microsoft Teams

1. **Minutes** of the February 2022 meeting were approved as written.

2. **Posthumous Degree**

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, along with the family of Matthew Foster, have requested consideration for the award of a posthumous degree. The Provost's Office has reviewed Matthew Foster's academic record and found that as a senior who was expected to complete degree requirements for a BS degree in Ecological Agriculture this year, he meets the criteria for the award of a posthumous degree in May 2022. This request has been approved by the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success.

Motion: Terry Delaney moved to recommend that a posthumous degree be awarded to Matthew Foster. The motion was seconded and **carried unanimously**.

3. **CAC Consent Agenda** – Stephen Everse recommended the following items for the CAC Consent Agenda:

- a) Minor in Medical Diagnostics
- b) No Contest deactivation in Early Childhood Special Education Major
- c) APR Report: Exercise Science (no vote required)
- d) Move minor in ENVS from RSENR to CAS (no vote required)

Motion: The consent agenda came moved from the Curricular Affairs Committee.

Discussion included an explanation by Stephen Everse that the new or refined version of the Early Childhood Special Education Major is expected in the Fall 2022, and the no contest deactivation of the existing major received one vote in opposition from a member of the CAC who believes that there should be no deactivations. Everse also confirmed that the Minor in Medical Diagnostics is rigorous, requires students to apply, and is limited to

30 students. The move of the minor in ENVS to CAS should have occurred along with the move of the major but was an oversight.

Vote: 10 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. The motion carried.

4. **Chair's Remarks** – Thomas Borchert made the following remarks:

- The Faculty Senate and Senate Committee meetings will remain remote for the balance of the academic year. Committee chairs should consult with their committees to decide the meeting modality for the 2022-23 academic year.
- Elections – The call for nominations was circulated for two (2) open seats for at-large members to the Executive Council, and for the President-Elect. Thomas Borchert announced that he will run for re-election as Senate President. For the member at-large seats, Cathy Paris has been nominated. Matthew White will not be running for re-election as he will be on sabbatical.
- End of year reports are due from chairs of the Senate Committees in May. Chairs will be asked to provide an oral update at the May 19th Senate meeting. Written reports will be distributed with the May Senate agenda. Deadline to submit the reports to the Senate office is Monday, May 2nd.
- UVM Board of Trustees Chair, Ron Lumbra, will address the Senate at the first Senate meeting in the Fall 2022, instead of the May 2022 meeting.

5. **Proposal to move Physics Department from CAS to CEMS**

Motion: Cathy Paris moved to accept the report and move it to the Senate for vote.

Discussion included statements of support for the proposal from members of the ad hoc committee, and the Physics department. Concerns included the budgetary reasons behind the proposed move, the ability of CEMS to reduce costs by offloading space, and the trend of departments moving from CAS. Stephen Everse reported that Dean Falls and Provost Prelock did not see this as a trend and don't see more proposals for department moves on the horizon. The FPPC will take up the issue of offloading space and consider future resolutions to express the desire that organizational changes should be driven by intellectual and educational synergies instead of divergent financial conditions of different schools and colleges.

Vote: 11 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

6. **Senate Census** – Thomas Borchert stated that the December 2021 meeting, the Senate passed a resolution for reconsideration of the allocation of Senate representation. The resolution called for the Executive Council to appoint a study committee to consider the processes by which faculty representation is determined and allotted within the Senate. Laurie Eddy provided an overview of how Senate representation is currently determined, for both allocation of Senate seats and creating a list of faculty members eligible to vote for Senate officers and on referendum ballots. A faculty census is requested from the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) using the parameters defined in the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws – updated April 2021 (section 2.1 Eligible Faculty, and section 2.3.1 Apportionment and Term) – updated April 2021). Each department or comparable budgetary unit elects one senator, and units with more than 25 full-time eligible faculty

elect two senators. The data received from OIR uses the following Human Resources definitions of status:

- Contract shorter than 9-months considered Part-time regardless of FTE
- Contract 9-months or longer are considered:
 - Full-time – total FTE = 1.0
 - Mid-time – total FTE is greater than or equal to 0.75 and less than 1.0
 - Part-time – total FTE less than 0.75

Eligible Faculty Members have a summed FTE of ≥ 0.10

Currently, the Faculty Senate has 79 voting members consisting of 73 elected senators, 6 elected chairs of standing committees, and in the case of a tie, the Faculty Senate President. The Senate Vice President is not a voting member.

Discussion included the unevenness of representation. A look at the 2022 Faculty Census numbers by college show a range of representation from 3% to 9%. The range of representation by department would be even greater. A survey of other institutions may provide options to improve the system of determining senate representation. Chris Burns will gather information from other institutions on models to consider and discuss at the April Executive Council meeting.

7. Possible resolutions for the Senate, and whether they are germane

- a. Resolution on State Legislatures and the Questions of teaching about Race and Racism (request from Stephanie Seguino).
- b. Resolution about Ukraine (request from Michael Gurdon)

Discussion included relevance to UVM and Faculty Senate, desire for a message of solidarity to high school and public university colleagues in the field of education, and the importance of people speaking up and going on record supporting colleagues in other parts of the world. Tom Borchert thanked the Executive Council for the guidance and will determine the action to move forward.

8. Evaluate Summary of Senate feedback on Art and Science report

Tom Borchert shared a draft summary of the themes that came from the breakout group discussions at the February Faculty Senate meeting. Discussion included the desire for one or two action items, such as a strategy for diversity recruitment and retention; a centralized university strategy to support initiatives in experiential learning, global engagement, or advanced foreign language; an inventory of UVM’s experiential learning to increase communication and identify needs. Tom Borchert will finalize the report for distribution to the Senate.

9. Agenda for P&P Meeting Friday, March 25, 1:00 – 1:45 PM President’s Conference Room.

- a. Discussion of Art and Science report – goals for “Global”
- b. Update on DEI initiatives, especially in relation to Academic Success Goals 1.5

10. Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting Monday, March 28, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

4:00	1. Faculty Senate President’s Welcome Remarks – Thomas Borchert [5 min]
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4:05	2. Consent Agenda (vote) [5 min] A. Minutes of the February 2022 Faculty Senate Meeting B. Curricular Affairs a) New minor in Medical Diagnostics (CNHS) b) No-contest Deactivation BS in Early Childhood Special Education (CESS)
4:10	3. Reports that do not require a Senate vote A. APR: Exercise Science Program (CNHS) B. Environmental Studies Minor move from RSENR to CAS
4:15	4. Resolutions in Memoriam (vote) A. Dean Corrigan Professor and Dean (CESS) – Bud Meyers B. William E. Mitchell, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology (CAS) – Luis Vivanco
4:25	5. Call for Nominations A. Faculty Senate President Elect B. Members At-large to the Senate Executive Council (2-seats)
4:30	6. Proposal to move Physics Department from CAS to CEMS (vote)
4:50	7. Update on Board of Trustees and UVM governance bill
4:55	8. Changes to the Residential Learning Communities (Discussion) J. Dickinson Bridging Academic and Residential Experiences: UVM Learning Communities
5:10	9. New Learning Management System (Discussion) Simeon Ananou
5:25	10. New Business [5 min]
5:30	11. Adjourn

Motion: Evan Eyler moved to approve the draft agenda for the March 28 Senate meeting. The motion was seconded and **carried**.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:50PM