



FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council
May 9, 2022, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
Minutes

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

Absent: Professors Gould, Kervick, Prue, Read

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM on Microsoft Teams

1. **Minutes** of the April 2022 meeting were unanimously approved as written.
2. **Chair's Remarks** – Thomas Borchert made the following comments:
 - A proposal from the Administration to change the reporting structure of the Director of the Fleming Museum from the Provost's Office to the Director of the School of the Arts will be submitted to the Faculty Senate for review. The proposal is anticipated in the summer for review in the early Fall.
 - Modality for Executive Council meetings in the Fall has not been finalized. Several members expressed the desire for remote or hybrid meetings
 - Thank you to members stepping off the Executive Council at the end of the academic year, including Matthew White (at-large member), Mildred Beltre and Rochelle Gould (RSCA co-chairs). New members joining the Executive Council in the Fall include Guillermo Rodriguez (co-chair of FPPC with Jane Knodell who will be on sabbatical in the fall), Jill Preston (co-chair RSCA), and Louis deRosset (at-large member). Special thank you to Chris Burns for his wise council and years of service to the Senate in many roles, including Immediate Past President, President, Vice President and Chair of the RSCA.
3. **Contested Deactivation of Physical Education Major (CESS)**

Motion: Mary Cushman moved that the Executive Council support the proposal to deactivate the Physical Education (Grades PreK-12) B.S. Ed. and send it to the Faculty Senate for their consideration. The motion was seconded. Discussion included support for the deactivation, and acknowledgement that CESS made the choice to deactivate, not terminate, the program, signaling a belief in the importance of the program and willingness to work to redesign the program.

Vote: 12 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. The motion carried.

4. **Resolution on Offensive Issues and Academic Freedom**

Motion: Evan Eyer moved to approve the Resolution Supporting Faculty Autonomy in Scholarly Work Regarding Critical Race Theory and Other Aspects of Bias, Discrimination and Social Justice, and forward the resolution to the Senate for consideration. The motion was seconded. Discussion included support for the resolution from members of the Executive Council, and from the Faculty Senate ad hoc DEI committee. The RSCA will be considering the resolution at their meeting on Thursday

Vote: 12 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried**

5. **Resolution to extend test optional policy**

Motion: Cathy Paris moved to place the resolution from the Student Affairs Committee regarding extending the Test-optional Admissions Policy on the Senate agenda. The motion was seconded. Discussion included the benefit of data collected over a longer period of time, and the correlation of high school GPA as a better marker for success than SAT scores.

Vote: 12 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

6. **Resolution to extend hoc DEI committee**

Motion: Stephen Everse moved to approve the resolution to extend the Faculty Senate ad hoc DEI committee and place it on the Senate agenda. The motion was seconded.

Discussion included the clarification that a Senate bylaws change is required to create a standing committee. The resolution will be presented as part of the consent agenda.

Vote: 12 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

7. **Reorganization Working Group Final Report**

Motion: Mary Cushman moved to accept the report and endorse the recommendations of the Academic Reorganization Working Group. The motion was seconded. Discussion included confirmation that there have been no changes to the report since it was brought to the Senate in April.

Vote: 12 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

8. **Senate Committee Annual Reports and Updates**

- **Catamount Core Curriculum Committee (CCCC)** – Terry Delaney served as the Executive Council representative on the CCCC and presented an overview of the work completed by the CCCC during the academic year. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes, and include an overview of the core curriculum, the membership of the CCCC, and the number of proposals submitted for review this academic year. Only a fraction of the number of courses needed have been submitted and reviewed. Thomas Borchert reminded members that the core curriculum will be a rolling start and in 2023 will only apply to the 1st year students. This is currently a joint committee of the Faculty Senate and the Provost's Office but will move to become a standing committee of the Faculty Senate, which will require a change to the Senate bylaws.

- **Presentation to Senate from standing committees** – Thomas Borchert thanked the Chairs for submitting their annual reports to the Senate. The reports will be distributed with the May Senate agenda. President Borchert will prepare slides with selected highlights from each committee to present to the Senate.

9. **Agenda for P&P Meeting Thursday, May 12, 3:00-3:45 PM, President’s Conference Room.**

- Tuition plans for AY 2024 – understanding the parameters for decisions
- End of academic year reflections

10. **Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting Thursday, May 19, 3:00 – 4:30 PM**

Motion: Stephen Everse moved to approve the draft agenda. The motion was seconded.

Vote: 12 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. The motion carried.

3:00	1. Faculty Senate President’s Welcome Remarks – Thomas Borchert <i>[5 min]</i>
3:05	2. Reflections on end of the year, Provost Patricia Prelock <i>[5 min]</i>
3:10	3. Consent Agenda (vote) <i>[5 min]</i> A. Minutes of the April 2022 Faculty Senate Meeting B. Resolution to extend the Faculty Senate ad hoc DEI committee
3:15	4. Degree Conferrals (vote) <i>[5 min]</i>
3:20	5. Resolution in Memoriam (vote) A. Reno Thomas Simone, Professor Emeritus of English (CAS) – Huck Gutman B. Bill Mann, Philosophy
3:25	6. Contested Deactivation Physical Education (vote)
3:35	7. Resolution Supporting Faculty Autonomy in Scholarly Work Regarding Critical Race Theory and Other Aspects of Bias, Discrimination and Social Justice (vote)
3:40	8. Resolution to extend test optional (vote) [need resolution format]
3:45	9. Resolution to accept report of the Academic Reorganization Working Group (vote)
3:50	10. Reports that do not require a Senate vote: A. Curricular Affairs Committee B. Educational & Research Technologies Committee C. Financial & Physical Planning Committee D. Professional Standards Committee E. Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Committee F. Student Affairs Committee
4:00	11. Update on Board of Trustees configuration, Thomas Chittenden (discussion)
4:10	12. Comprehensive Sustainability Plan (Elizabeth Palchak, Director of Sustainability)
4:20	13. Closing Remarks, President
4:25	14. New Business <i>[5 min]</i>
4:30	15. Adjourn

11. . **New Business** –

- Jane Knodell asked the status of the ad hoc committee on Faculty Senate Authority that the Senate voted to establish in May 2021. Thomas Borchert reported that the resolution was amended in October 2021 to allow composition of the committee to include faculty not serving as senators. The committee has struggled to get members and has not met yet. However, some of the recommendations of the Academic Reorganization Working Group address some of the goals of the ad hoc committee.
- Chris Burns encouraged a hard look at the Fleming Museum proposal when it comes to the Senate for review. Chris congratulated Tom Borchert on a successful first year.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM