



The  
UNIVERSITY  
of VERMONT

FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council

November 9, 2020, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Minutes

Present: Professors Chittenden, Burns, Almstead, Beckage, Cushman, Delaney, Eyler, Giangreco, Ikeda, Knodell,

Absent: Professors Borchert, Prue, Read, Wood

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

1. **Minutes** of the October 12, 2020 meeting were approved with one minor correction.
2. **Degree Corrections.** Laurie Eddy presented a degree correction request from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for consideration.  
**Motion:** Mary Cushman moved to approve the degree corrections as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.
3. **CAC Consent Agenda.** Laura Almstead presented two items for vote and one report out that does not require a vote.
  - a. The new Entry-Level Doctorate in Occupational Therapy, CNHS/GC
  - b. Deactivate the Post-Professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy CNHS/GC
  - c. Report Out of items not requiring Senate vote

Jane Knodell asked to remove item a. The new Entry-Level Doctorate in Occupational Therapy, from the consent agenda due to concerns about the source of funding for the first two years of the program. Laura Almstead reported that the budget analysis showed that there would be required funds for the first couple of years, but after that it would not only pay for itself but bring revenue to the college. A memo from Dean Thomas stated that the Provost would provide some initial investment of funds in year 2022 and 2023, and other funds would be coming from gifts. Jane Knodell asked the EC for the new program to go to the FPPC for review before going to the Senate for vote. Laura Almstead stated that although funding is not the focus of the CAC, the CAC reviews the budget for new programs to ensure that the Dean has looked carefully at the budget and intends to support the program, and that there is evidence that the

program will eventually support itself. Laura expressed strong support for the new Entry-Level Doctorate in Occupational Therapy as a curricular proposal, and cited wide community support, a need for OT in Vermont, and the importance of the timing for securing an accreditation spot for the OT program. A delay in approval of the program would mean a loss of the accreditation spot for four years. Jane Knodell acknowledged a memo from the Provost to Dean Thomas pledging \$200,000 in funding and expressed concern about the source of the additional ~\$800,000 needed. Jane requested that the EC refer the issue to the FPPC to question Dean Thomas on the source of the up-front investment by the college, and the Provost on the use of strategic investment funds. Jane Knodell committed to routing this review through the FPPC at their December meeting to ensure that it would be able to come to the Senate for vote in December. Laura Almstead stated that item b. Deactivate the Post-Professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy should be removed from consideration for November and be presented together with item a. in December. Thomas Chittenden redirected item a. to the FPPC and removed item b. from consideration until the December meeting. The CAC Report Out (item c.) which does not require a vote, will be presented as the CAC consent agenda at the November Senate meeting.

4. **Chair's Remarks.** Thomas Chittenden made the following remarks:
  - a. Welcome to Kyle Ikeda, recently elected as at-large member.
  - b. Thomas acknowledged that he was elected to the Vermont State Senate and will resign the office of Faculty Senate President effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. Chris Burns is willing to perform the duties of Faculty Senate President until July 1, 2021. Discussion will take place in December regarding timeline and process for holding an election for President-Elect.
  - c. Student Government Association Leadership has raised pandemic related concerns they are hearing from students about the remote learning experience. Thomas and Chris have connected with the SGA leadership and are working on addressing the concerns. A joint communication is planned with the Provost's office regarding best practices, relaying the student concerns, and promoting the Center for Teaching and Learning. CTL has increased course offerings for remote pedagogical approaches that are going to be offered in January.
  - d. At their November meeting, the Student Affairs Committee (SAC) unanimously passed a motion to extend the Standardized Testing Requirement Waiver. Thomas will report this action by the SAC to the Senate in his advance email. The motion: "In part due to the challenges and risks associated with COVID-19, as well as inequity and bias that may be ingrained into standardized tests, the SAC moves to extend the test-optional option for UG admission, for TWO admission cycles, with later consideration of making this change permanent. This would apply to students entering for the fall of 2021 through 2023."
  
5. **Comprehensive Bylaws Review Committee Update** – Chris Burns reported that the group has been focused on clean-up issues and addressing items that are missing in the current bylaws such as electronic meetings and electronic voting. Discussions have also

included suggestions for qualifications for president, presidential duties, committees and committee relationships to the Senate. The bylaws review committee is preparing to solicit feedback from the Senate in a written form, such as a feedback form on the Senate website, or a short survey.

6. **Academic Success Goals Open Discussion** - Thomas Chittenden opened a discussion on the Academic Success Goals released by the Provost in April 2020. Chris Burns referred to the Provost’s website where the documents are posted. The Metrics and Outcomes document highlights key players and the Senate is mentioned as a key partner in several academic initiatives. This is a working document for how the Provost is planning to approach academic matters at the University, and therefore worthy of Senate attention. Chris recommended that the Senate committee chairs look to see areas that might fit into their current committee work or be fruitful to suggest as new topics of discussion within their committees.
7. **Agenda for P&P Meeting.** The following items were forwarded as the agenda items for the Executive Council meeting with the President and Provost:
  - a. Welcome Kyle Ikeda
  - b. UVM Re-Org Preliminary Report, Effort Trajectory and Timeline?
  - c. Academic Success Goals – How to seek Faculty Senate Commitment & Buy-In

**8. Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting**

4:00	1. Faculty Senate President’s Welcome Remarks – Thomas Chittenden [5 min] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admissions Policy Extension Motion from the SAC</li> <li>• Leadership Transition</li> </ul>
4:05	2. Consent Agenda (vote) [3 min] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes of the 10/19/20 Faculty Senate Meeting</li> <li>• Curricular Affairs           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Report Out (no vote required)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
4:08	3. General Education – Pablo Bose (vote) [10 min] 4 categories that total 9 credits are being considered for vote
4:18	4. Re-Org Preliminary Report – Dean Jenemann [30 min]
4:48	5. Faculty of Color Resolution – Jinny Huh (vote) [20 min]
5:08	6. Resolution supporting the UVM Libraries in their negotiations with Elsevier – Meredith Niles, Jennifer Sisk & Mary Cushman [20 min]
5:28	7. New Business [2 min]
5:30	8. Adjourn

Discussion on the proposed Faculty Senate Meeting agenda included:

- Thomas Chittenden opened discussion on the proposed agenda item 4. Re-Org Preliminary Report. The Executive Council received a 2-page document from Provost Prelock 30-minutes prior to this meeting, and therefore had very little time to review the proposal and timeline. Mary Cushman reported that the Working Group submitted

a 3-page document to the President and Provost and thought that it would be the basis of Dean Jenemann's presentation to the Faculty Senate. Discussion included concerns about the timeline, the role of the Senate Executive Council, and the amount of time needed for discussion at the Senate meeting.

- Faculty of Color Resolution did not come through a committee and may receive suggestions for clarity on the wording, definitions and intent during discussion at the Senate meeting. This item may need to come back to the Senate in December with revisions based on feedback received during the November Senate meeting.

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

10. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

DRAFT