



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council Special Meeting
Friday, March 27, 2020, 12:30 p.m. via MS Teams

Present: Thomas Chittenden, Chris Burns, Cathy Paris, Michael Giangreco, Don Ross, Susanmarie Harrington, Mary Cushman, David Massell, Kenneth Allen, Helen Read, Brian Beckage, Regina Toolin

Absent: Laura Almstead, Jennifer Prue, Evan Eyler

Guests: Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, J. Dickinson

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the resolutions passed by the Student Affairs Committee at their special meeting on 2/26/20

Thomas Chittenden framed the discussion with the following possible options to consider:

1. Endorse the SAC resolution as the elected members of the Executive Council of the Faculty Senate.
2. Endorse the Provost letter (attached) as the elected members of the Executive Council of the Faculty Senate.
3. Call an emergency meeting of the Full Senate for Monday afternoon but this may be AFTER the provost sends this memo and may be difficult to get quorum.
4. Do 1 and 2.
5. Do Nothing.

The motions from the Student Affairs Committee come to the Executive Council as seconded motions. After discussion, the Executive Council voted to endorse the motions from the SAC. The motions passed unanimously.

Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Jennifer Dickinson, shared a draft memo from the Provost to UVM Students, Faculty and Staff with the subject: Spring 2020 Academic Accommodations for Students. The Provost would like to send this memo out today if possible.

Cathy Paris moved to endorse the Provost's memo with the subsequent edit that J. Dickinson noted, which changed the bullet regarding incompletes to acknowledge that incompletes are granted, not automatic: "Student's granted incompletes will have the full academic year (until May 7, 2021) to submit the work necessary to convert their incomplete to a final grade." The motion was seconded.

Discussion on the motion. The Executive Council was asked to weigh in on whether the date by which students must elect P/NP should potentially be right before exams begin, or whether it should be after final grades are released (4:30 pm on 5/12). J. Dickinson joined the meeting to answer questions from the Executive Council. Discussion included the concern that the suggested 24-hour time frame is too short for students to make an informed decision. The Provost has asked J. Dickinson to work with colleges to create decision-trees to help students make these decisions. After discussion, J. Dickinson left the meeting.

Dave Massell moved to amend the motion to endorse the Provost's memo provided that the students have the option to elect Pass/No Pass (S/U for graduate students) until noon on 14th May Thursday. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Executive Council voted on the motion to endorse the Provost's memo: Spring 2020 Academic Accommodations for Students, as amended. The amended motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Council agreed that a meeting of the full Senate is not needed to address this urgent issue. The Senate President has informed the full Senate about the SAC resolutions, and this emergency meeting of the Executive Council endorsed the actions of the SAC on behalf of the Senate. President Chittenden will communicate the actions of the Executive Council to the Senate.

The meeting adjourned.