



FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council
February 13, 2023, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
Minutes

Present: Professors Borchert, Eyler, Bonifield, Cushman, Delaney, deRosset, Everse, Julianelle, Kervick, Knodell, Lopez-Vicuna, Paris, Read, Rodriguez
Absent: Professors Prue

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

President Borchert moved to make the following changes to the agenda:

- Remove item 4: HELIOS resolution. The RSCA has not finished the resolution. This item will be placed on the March agenda
- Change the order of discussion item 6: Senate Roundtable with item 7: UVM tuition

The changes to the agenda were adopted with no objections.

1. **Minutes** of the January 2023 meeting were approved as written.

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

- The RSCA is re-visiting the effort to revise the academic freedom policy. Trenten Klingerman, VP for Legal Affairs and General Counsel spoke at the last RSCA meeting. The RSCA anticipates bringing a slightly revised policy to the Senate for discussion in March.
- Administration is in the process of putting together a program called Global Trek, which is a pre-matriculation set of courses or study trips to increase student's understanding of UVM's global connections and engagement. Initial goals have been right sized and will be mounted for the coming year. The Faculty Senate may be asked to encourage faculty engagement in Global Trek.
- A call for nominations will be held at the February Senate meeting for three (3) members at large, and for the Vice President of the Faculty Senate. Two of the at-large seats, currently held by Ignacio and Tony, will be for the two-year term beginning on July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2025. Ignacio is not running for re-election. Tony has accepted the nomination to run again. The third at-large seat is for a one-year term to complete the final year of the two-year term of the seat currently held by Cathy Paris who will be retiring. The Vice President of the Faculty Senate is a 2-year term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025. Evan Eyler has accepted the nomination to run for

another term. At-large seats are open to elected senators, and the VP is open to the entire faculty. Executive Council members are encouraged to recruit faculty to consider running for the open seats. Senate standing committee chair elections will also be held in the coming months.

- Tom Borchert asked Colby Kervick, Evan Eyler and Jane Knodell to share observations from the February Board of Trustees meeting. Colby Kervick stated that the EPIR passed the curricular items forwarded to the BOT by the Senate, including the creation of the School of World Languages and Cultures and the Institute for Agroecology. Presentations included policies around reporting for instances of harm or sexual assault, and the movement towards having a new centralized reporting. Jane stated that the BFI received a report on the endowment, which was down almost 13% in 2022. Budget assumptions included flat tuition rates, a small increase in the size of the first-time, first-year class, expectations for rising energy and facilities expenses, and the hope of a 3% increase from the State. Concerns were noted regarding the health insurance carrier for retired faculty being changed from BlueCross BlueShield to Cigna. Questions were expressed regarding the effect flat tuition has on investments.

3. **Degree Corrections** - Laurie Eddy presented a degree correction request from the College of Arts and Sciences.
Motion: Stephen Everse moved to approve the degree correction as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.
4. **HELIOS, Open Access and Use of UVM Repository (Resolution from RSCA) VOTE** –This agenda item was moved to the March meeting.
5. **Feedback regarding Dean 5-year reviews.** Thomas Borchert reported that the 5-year review committees have begun their work for the reviews of Linda Schadler (CEMS), David Jenemann (HCOL), and Richard Page (LCOM). As a part of the reviews, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Jane Okech, has requested memos from the Faculty Senate leadership regarding each dean’s work with the Faculty Senate. Executive Council members should forward relevant information to Thomas Borchert by email.
6. **Senate Roundtable topics** – Thomas Borchert stated his intent to hold roundtable discussions at the February Faculty Senate meeting. The purpose of these conversations is to get feedback from senators about future initiatives and ongoing concerns that pertain to the University mission. The feedback will inform a list of priorities and interests to be shared with the Senate, committees, and the administration. After a discussion of potential topics, Thomas Borchert stated that he will draft an explanation of the round tables and a set of questions and forward it to the Executive Council for feedback prior to circulating to the senators.
7. **Quality of Education and UVM Tuition** – Thomas Borchert opened a discussion regarding flat tuition and the impact on quality of education. Discussion included acknowledgment that there are many variables involved when looking at quality of experience, and that

measuring educational quality is a serious and difficult social science. Anecdotal observations included increase in class size, student to faculty ratio, shrinking the tenure track faculty, more teaching being done by lecturers, and a desire for equity in workload. Thomas Borchert stated that the administration has a responsibility in the next year to put forward a report to NECHE addressing questions around quality, including General Education, and advising. The Faculty Senate shares common ground and interests with the administration in producing a very high-quality education. There is also a shared concern with both the cost of education and the need to balance choices. Thomas Borchert asked the Executive Council to consider questions that the senate committees can investigate around quality and outputs to provide guidance to the administration.

8. **Process for Reviewing Centers and Institutes** – Due to time constraints this agenda item was not addressed.
9. **Agenda for P&P Meeting (February 14, 1:15 – 2:00 PM)**
 - Academic Integrity, AI, and UVM’s policies
 - Update on Graduate College processes.
10. **Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting Monday, February, 4:00 – 5:30 PM on Teams** – Thomas Borchert will send a draft agenda to the Executive Council for approval via email.
11. **New Business** – none at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM.