



FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council  
September 11, 2023, 4:00 – 5:30 PM  
Minutes

Present: Professors Borchert (President), Eyer (VP), Allen (at large), Bonifield (PSC), deRosset (at large), Everse (CAC), Gove (SAC), Julianelle (at large), Kervick (CAC), Pope (at large), Prue (SAC), Read (ERTC), Rodriguez (FPPC)

Absent: Vacant (RSCA)

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

With no objections, President Borchert modified the agenda item 6 Eclipse Day Proposal to be a discussion without vote.

1. **Minutes** of the August 2023 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Chair's Remarks** – Thomas Borchert had no remarks.
3. **Curricular Affairs Committee items** – Colby Kervick and Stephen Everse presented the following items for the Senate agenda as a report of actions voted and approved by the CAC that do not require a vote by the Faculty Senate:
  1. Approval of new curricular proposal templates for units wishing to create a co-major including a required MOU document.
  2. Approval of a minor change to the guidelines for proposing new course prefixes. The guidelines were approved by the CAC in winter 2023 but a minor change to reflect the newly approved public circulation timeline of 15 days in May 2023 warranted a revision.
  3. Approved receipt of two APR reports for Critical Race and Ethnic Studies and the Food Systems Graduate Programs.

**Motion:** Jenny Prue moved to place the Curricular Affairs items onto the Senate agenda. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

4. **Co-Major Credential Discussion and Vote** – Colby Kervick and Stephen Everse reported that at their September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) reviewed and unanimously approved the proposal to establish a new undergraduate academic credential:

Co-Major. The proposal was circulated to the UVM community for 15-days. The proposal received 47 unique views (64 total views) with no comments or concerns received. In addition to unanimous approval of the proposal, the CAC also approved the related curricular proposal template materials that units would use if they were going to propose a co-major. At the conclusion of the technical review, it was determined that the routing process for proposals from a unit for a co-major will be considered equivalent to the process used for substantial revisions and be vetted and voted by the CAC and reported to the Faculty Senate. If the credential is approved by the Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees, then curricular proposals for co-majors could begin being reviewed during the spring 2024 semester with the new credential being available for student to pursue starting with the Fall 24-25 academic catalog year. Discussion included anticipated co-major proposals, concerns about complexities of catalogue, administration, memos of understanding (MOU), and importance of advising.

**Motion:** Evan Eyler moved that the Executive Council also endorse the co-major proposal approved by the CAC. The motion was seconded and **carried unanimously**.

5. **Academic Leadership Council Meeting** – Thomas Borchert opened the floor for discussion. The Executive Council appreciated the open and frank discussion and will continue to engage in shared governance around the academic success goals. Discussion of the next steps will be on the agenda for the next meeting with the President and Provost.
6. **Eclipse Day Proposal** – Thomas Borchert reported that the administration would prefer April 8<sup>th</sup> be an alternative day of instruction. While faculty would still be free to assign work, including asynchronous online work or assignments related to the eclipse and on-campus events, no class meetings would take place. (There would be no other additional changes to the academic calendar in Spring 2024. The current days without classes – MLK Day, President’s Day, Town Meeting Day – would remain as currently scheduled.) To prepare for a discussion of this topic at the September 18<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting, Tom will send an email to the Faculty Senators describing the current proposal for April 8 and requesting that they consult with their units on the following questions: Would you support making Monday April 8, 2024 a required alternate instructional day without standard class meetings? Why or why not?
7. **Board of Trustees and Faculty Representation** – Tom Borchert stated that there is a bill that the UA has put forward in the last biennium to put a member of the faculty on the UVM Board of Trustees. Although the bill received some traction in the spring, it was not taken up in any of the House or Senate committees. It is anticipated that the effort will be brought forward again. Discussion included the fact that this is a legislative decision, that although there is some movement, not many universities nationwide have voting faculty members, question of whether the Faculty Senate should pursue the issue and if so, in what way? Tom Borchert would like to continue this conversation after the Executive Council has read the report prepared for the Faculty Senate titled “An Investigation into Best Practices for Stakeholder Representation on University Governing Boards”.

**8. Agenda for P & P meeting with Executive Council – (Friday, Sept. 15, 1:00-1:45)**

Suggested topics for discussion included:

- I. Academic Success Goals - next steps
- II. Planetary Health proposal

**9. Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting (Monday, September 18, 4:00-5:30 PM, on Teams** - Thomas Borchert presented the following draft agenda.

**Motion:** Tony Julianelle moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously

4:00	1. Faculty Senate President’s Welcome Remarks – Thomas Borchert
4:03	2. Degree Conferrals (vote)
4:05	3. Consent Agenda (vote) A. Minutes of the August 2023 Faculty Senate Meeting
4:10	4. Reports that do not require a Senate vote: a. Curricular Affairs Committee Report of Actions Voted by CAC
4:15	5. Co-Major Credential at UVM (vote) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Curricular Affairs Committee Approval Memo</li><li>• The proposal and templates are available on Faculty Senate SharePoint site (login required)</li></ul>
4:35	6. Eclipse Day (discussion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The proposal is available on Faculty Senate SharePoint site (login required)</li></ul>
5:05	7. Announcement about NECHE report
5:25	8. New Business
5:30	adjourn

**10. New Business –**

- Ken Allen proposed that the policy on minors be reviewed regarding the need and expectation for minor advising.
- Ken Allen reported that the RPT blue sheets and green sheets were revised in Feb 2023 without Faculty Senate discussion. Carolyn Bonifield confirmed that the change did not come through the Professional Standards Committee. Each unit determines their own guidelines, but the forms come through the Provost’s Office. The recent update may have been a result of the union contract. The process for changing the RPT forms deserves further conversation.
- Guillermo Rodriguez reported that a representative from the Faculty Senate Executive Council is needed to serve on the University Benefits Council. Guillermo has been serving but has a teaching conflict.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:41 PM**