



FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council
October 17, 2022, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
Minutes

Present: Professors Borchert, Eyler, Bonifield, Cushman, Delaney, deRosset, Julianelle, Kervick, Lopez-Vicuna, Paris, Read, Rodriguez,
Absent: Professors Everse, Knodell, Preston, Prue
Guests: Veronika Carter, J. Dickinson, Amer Ahmed, Sherwood Smith, Paul Yoon

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

1. **Minutes** of the September 2022 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Chair's Remarks** – Thomas Borchert provided an overview of the report of Faculty Senate activities prepared for the Board of Trustees October meeting.
3. **Degree Corrections** – The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences requested one degree correction for September 2022.
Motion: Mary Cushman moved to approve the degree correction as presented. The motion was seconded.
Vote: 9 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. The motion carried.
4. **Posthumous Degrees** – The Provost's Office recommended the awarding of posthumous degrees to the following:
 - Cody Surprise, B.S. in Exercise Science, May 2023
 - Maisie Talbot, BS Health Sciences, May 2023The Provost's Office has reviewed the academic record and found that these seniors were expected to complete their degree requirements this academic year and meet the criteria for award of a posthumous degree in May 2023.
Motion: Cathy Paris moved to confer the requested posthumous degrees for Cody Surprise and Maisie Talbot in May 2023. The motion was seconded.
Vote: 9 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. The motion carried.
5. **Adding Juneteenth to Academic Calendar** – Thomas Borchert introduced a resolution regarding a change to the academic calendar. The Faculty Senate is responsible for approving changes to the academic calendar that are presented by the registrar. This

resolution is in response to the declaration of Juneteenth as a national holiday. University Registrar, Veronika Carter, presented a summary of the effort to adjust meeting patterns as necessary each summer session to meet minimum definition of a credit hour. UVM will follow the federally recognized observance date when Juneteenth falls on Saturday or Sunday.

Whereas the University of Vermont Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws states in section 1 (authority) that the Faculty Senate is empowered to approve the Academic Calendar prepared by the Registrar;

Whereas Juneteenth was added to the list of recognized administrative holidays beginning Summer 2022;

Whereas summer standard meeting patterns will be adjusted as necessary each summer session to meet minimum definition of a credit hour;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that beginning with Summer 2023 the University of Vermont Academic Calendar will: 1. Include a Juneteenth holiday. Observance will be in alignment with the federal holiday.

Questions included how the decision is made to make it a university holiday. Mary Cushman asked about other federal holidays not university holidays. Veronika stated that we already have fewer teaching holidays in fall than in the spring.

Motion: Cathy Paris moved to place the Juneteenth resolution on the agenda for the October Faculty Senate meeting. The motion was seconded. Discussion included questions regarding the process for deciding which federal holidays are observed as an administrative holiday by UVM.

Vote: 9 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. The motion carried.

6. **Evaluating Public Financial Documents** – This item was brought to the Executive Council by Louis deRosset under new business at the August 22, 2022 meeting. Louis deRosset stated that he was approached by a group of faculty concerned about the details of the financial position of the university. They have retained an accountant to do a thorough review of university finances using publicly available information. The group of faculty asked if the Executive Council or the Faculty Senate might add their name to this effort. Discussion included questions and concerns about the intention and goals, and the need to gather more information through Senate committees before signing on to this effort. The FPPC will request information from Richard Cate to gain greater clarity regarding how much of the reserves are restricted and in what ways. Louis deRosset will reach out to the group of faculty to request a list of specific questions they may have, and will forward the questions to Guillermo Rodriguez. Guillermo will report back to the EC after the FPPC discussion with Richard Cate.

7. **Process for changing Fleming Museum in University Manual** – Thomas Borchert stated that the Executive Council will be serving as the review committee for the proposal from the Provost’s Office to change the Fleming organization. After the review process, the EC will make a recommendation to the Faculty Senate for vote on the proposal. The proposal will be shared with senators and a webform will be used to collect comments during a 2-week comment period. A separate request for comments will be sent to the staff of the Fleming Museum. In addition to reviewing the proposal and comments received, the EC will meet with J. Dickinson and Chris Dissinger, Interim Director of the Fleming, to discuss questions and concerns, including budgets, negative aspects, and the scope of the change. The EC will make a recommendation to the Senate at the November meeting, with the anticipation of a Senate vote in December. Discussion included a desire to hear from the retired director of the Fleming Museum, and from Kelly DiDio, Director of School of the Arts.

8. **Process for establishing centers/institutes**
Thomas Borchert opened discussion by reporting that the RSCA agreed in principle to be a review committee for proposals for establishing centers/institutes. A draft document outlined the process for reviewing proposals to establish a center/institute, and the proposal format. Both the Provost and Kirk Dombrowski, VP for Research have viewed the draft. Discussion included the increased interest in the development of cross-unit centers and institutes, the need to define the difference more clearly between centers and institutes, and another round of proofreading before sending the draft to the Senate.

9. **Senate Action in DEI, discussion with Amer Ahmed, Sherwood Smith, Paul Yoon**
Amer Ahmed highlighted two main areas that the Faculty Senate can work to advance DEI at the university. First is recruitment of underrepresented faculty and retention. As of October 1st, UVM has a new faculty recruiter position in the Division of Faculty Affairs. Crispina Pincus has been hired as Academic Talent Acquisition and Retention Coordinator. The second area is faculty development. Amer noted that they are working with Jane Okech and are excited about Jane’s commitment to DEI centered work in Faculty Affairs. Jane is building out the faculty mentorship program and cultivating faculty development and teaching excellence. Discussion included potential for the Senate to serve as a review body as each department is developing an inclusive excellence plan that should be addressing faculty recruitment, retention, and professional development. The increase in Diversity Officers in units provides an important resource.

10. **Agenda P&P meeting – Friday, October 21, 11:00 – 11:45 AM**
 - President Garimella is traveling and unable to meet on Friday, Oct. 21. Evan Eyler moved to cancel the October P/P meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.
 - The November P/P meeting was rescheduled for Nov 14th, 45 minutes prior to EC meeting. The alternate date is Monday prior to Thanksgiving. The November P/P meeting will be cancelled.

11. Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting Monday, October 24, 4:00 – 5:30 PM on Teams

Motion: Mary Cushman moved to approve the draft agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.

4:00	1. Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks – Thomas Borchert <i>[5 min]</i>
4:05	2. Minutes of the September 2022 Faculty Senate Meeting (vote)
4:10	3. Degree Conferrals – Graduate Degrees (vote) <i>[5 min]</i>
4:15	4. Resolution: Juneteenth Addition to Academic Calendar (vote)
4:25	5. Senate Representation (Report/Discussion, continued) Recommendation from Faculty Senate Executive Council regarding Senate composition
4:40	6. Proposal for Procedures to Establish Centers or Institutes (discussion)
4:50	7. Changes to the Fleming organization (discussion)
5:00	8. Student Affair Committee (SAC) report and discussion of outside of class expectations (Scott van Keuren from SAC)
5:10	9. Reports that do not require a Senate vote: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CAC prefix changes
5:11	10. Senate education – Michael Schirling, Chief Safety and Compliance Officer
5:26	11. New Business
5:30	12. Adjourn

12. New Business – none at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 PM