



FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council
December 12, 2022, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
Minutes

Present: Professors Borchert, Eyler, Bonifield, Delaney, deRosset, Everse, Julianelle, Kervick, Paris, Preston, Rodriguez

Absent: Professors Cushman, Knodell, Lopez-Vicuna, Prue, Read

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM on Microsoft Teams

1. **Minutes** of the November 14, 2022 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Chair's Remarks** – Thomas Borchert reported that he was invited by Board of Trustees (BOT) Chair, Ron Lumbra, to attend a meeting between United Academics (UA) leadership and members of the BOT. The meeting topics included the desire for a faculty member on the BOT, and the desire for improved communication between BOT and UA.
3. **Processes update, School of World Languages and Cultures, and Institute for Agroecology.** Thomas Borchert provided an update on the process for reviewing the proposals for the School of World Languages and Cultures (SWLC) and the Institute for Agroecology. The RSCA met with Ernesto Mendez as part of their review of the Institute for Agroecology proposal. Discussion will continue in January and the RSCA will make a recommendation to the Senate in January. The public comment period yielded generally positive response, and no negative comments were received. The ad hoc committee reviewing the proposal for the School of World Languages and Cultures (SWLC) has met three times, including meetings with the chairs of most of the departments (Classics does not currently have its own chair) that would become part of the SWLC. The ad hoc committee discussed the benefit of a possible revote among the language faculty to bring greater clarity and solidify support around the proposal. An additional meeting will be scheduled with the Associate Dean McGowan to discuss the concerns before the ad hoc committee votes on a recommendation to forward to the Senate.
4. **Review Personal Safety & Threat Assessment Policy** – Thomas Borchert stated that as a governance leader, he receives policy revisions for review and comment, and is encouraged to solicit input from the Executive Council. The Personal Safety and Security Policy has been revised with a new title of Personal Safety & Threat Assessment. Discussion included the

desire for a more robust consequence for retaliation, remove “while not preferred” in reference to anonymous reporting, questions regarding the role of the threat assessment team and what constitutes a threat. The addition of examples or potential threat scenarios would be helpful.

5. **Goals for Spring Semester in the Faculty Senate and Senate Committees**

To help prioritize the activities of the Senate, Thomas Borchert asked the chairs of the standing committees to share what the committees are hoping to accomplish in the coming semester.

Professional Standards Committee (PSC) – Carolyn Bonifield stated that sabbatical reviews are the heavy lift for the PSC in Spring. The PSC will also review “parking lot” issues and the PSC operating procedures. Carolyn will be reaching out to Vice Provost Jane Okech regarding inconsistency among units regarding processes involved in sabbatical applications.

Student Affairs Committee (SAC) – Terrence Delaney reported that the SAC looks at issues impacting students. Recent topics include the results of the 6-week student survey highlighting loneliness as an issue, admission policy, late withdrawals, and the change in advising models.

Research, Scholarship and the Creative Arts (RSCA) – Jill Preston reported that the RSCA will be talking about issues with international research and hiring people in international projects and the red tape associated with that. Other topics include decolonizing research, rewriting the academic freedom statement, HELIOS and the drive toward open access, and funding opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students.

Financial and Physical Planning Committee (FPPC) – Guillermo Rodriguez stated that in addition to the FPPC hearing from Richard Cate and Jay Jacobson regarding the financial situation and enrollment, the FPPC has invite deans to FPPC meetings to explain what their budgetary processes are and what is unique about their budgets. The FPPC has taken steps to have a more advisory role instead of a reactive role by asking the VP for Finance and the VP for Enrollment to answer questions in writing prior to coming to the FPPC meeting. The FPPC has also developed operating procedures for the committee.

Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) – Stephen Everse reported that the Academic Program Review (APR) process is continuing, and there are several new and revised curricular proposals in the pipeline. Guest speakers have included Jill Irvine, Chief Officer of Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) and Alex Yin, Executive Director of the Office of Institutional Research an Assessment. A subcommittee is working on establishing a process for co-majors and creating a credentialing process. The CAC co-chairs are reviewing the CAC operating procedures and developing guidelines for prefix changes.

Educational Research Technology Committee (ERTC) – Thomas Borchert reported that the ERTC Chair, Helen Read, had a conflicting exam schedule and was unable to attend this Executive Council meeting.

In addition to the committee work, Thomas Borchert asked the Executive Council to think about topics related to the Academic Stewardship Committee, or Academic Priorities Council, including active engagement of the Faculty Senate in Strategic Planning, which could include a round table discussion with senators in February or March, and engagement in work calling for an effective evaluation how the online student evaluation tool is working across the university. Executive Council members also discussed bigger picture issues, such as UVM's response to the anticipated demographic cliff, the potential finding of the Supreme Court that some admission practices are illegal, or the impacts of ai Chatbot technology.

6. Agenda for P&P Meeting (December 13, 4:00 – 4:45)

- Tuition in coming years
- Agenda, Senate meeting December 2022

7. **Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting Monday, December 19, 3:00 – 4:30 PM on Teams** – Thomas Borchert presented the following draft agenda:

Motion: Cathy Paris moved to approve the draft agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.

3:00	1. Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks – Thomas Borchert
3:10	2. Minutes of the November 2022 Faculty Senate Meeting
3:15	3. Proposal to establish Institute for AgroEcology (discussion)
3:30	4. Proposal to create a School of World Languages and Cultures (discussion)
3:50	5. HELIOS Discussion (Mary Cushman, co-chair RSCA)
4:10	6. Reports that do not require a Senate vote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to Final Exam policy (SAC) • CAC – prefix change
4:15	7. New Business
4:30	8. Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM.