



FACULTY SENATE

**Executive Council**

March 16, 2019 4:00 – 5:30 pm  
Online via Teams

Minutes

Present: Professors Allen, Almstead, Burns, Beckage, Chittenden, Cushman, Eyler, Giangreco, Harrington, Paris, Ross, Toolin, Read

Absent: Professors Prue, Massell

Guests: Gary Derr

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The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. online via Microsoft Teams

Thomas Chittenden provided an overview of the Teams platform.

**1. Chair's remarks – Thomas Chittenden made the following remarks:**

- a. New: MS Teams Discussion and Best Practices – self muting, chat window instead of verbal interruptions, audio feed in rooms with more than one participant, extended desktop
- b. New: Clarification on request from J Dickinson on the 'Questions under Consideration' in the General Education Task Force document from this afternoon. EC members are requested to submit guidance on the 6 questions by Wednesday. J. plans to share the final document with senators prior to the senate meeting. Read J's prologue carefully and respond to those 6 questions.
- c. Nominations update – three nominations have been received for Senate President-Elect. Two of the nominations were for Thomas Chittenden, and the third was for another candidate who did not accept the nomination. Two nominations have been received for the two open seats for member at-large. Brian Beckage has accepted the nomination, and the other candidate declined the nomination. Nominations will be accepted through 6:00 pm on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- d. Ron Lumbra, new BOT chair has agreed to attend the May Senate meeting
- e. Don Ross – Retirement Prevention Programs. Congratulations to Don Ross on his planned retirement. Chairs of the standing committees are asked to think about succession planning if chairs are not returning next year.

**2. Approval of February 10, 2020 Minutes.**

**Motion:** Michael Giangreco moved to approve the February 10, 2020 Executive Council minutes as written. The motion was seconded and **passed unanimously.**

- 3. Coronavirus (COVID-19) and UVM Disaster Planning and Preparedness.** Gary Derr, Vice President for Operations and Public Safety provided an update on the evolving and fast-changing situation due to COVID-19. UVM has established a COVID-19 webpage that is constantly updated with

the developing response plan. Today, the Burlington Mayor announced the closing of all bars/restaurants except take-out delivery in Burlington, and the Governor has order the closing of all k-12 schools. Response from UVM has included email encouraging employees to telecommute, guidelines for supervisors on how to manage telecommuting, and efforts to reduce the number of students on campus. About 20% of the students plan to stay on campus, but it is anticipated that the number will drop with significant changes in how services are delivered on campus. There is a concern for faculty and staff who need to make arrangements for the care of their small children. People across campus are stepping-up. Feedback from students has been good around faculty stepping up for remote instruction. New information has been added to the website regarding research, and information for Grad students. Gary is scheduled to present an update at the March Faculty Senate meeting, and plans to be available during President Garimella's presentation to answer any questions that arise. Questions for Gary may be submitted in advance.

**4. Draft agenda for Faculty Senate meeting of March 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

The proposed agenda includes the annual report of the university financial situation by Richard Cate. Thomas Chittenden has confirmed that Richard is willing to be bumped to the April meeting if more time is needed for President Garimella's discussion.

The agenda was **approved unanimously**.

**5. Follow-up from the P&P Meeting**

The following two discussion topics were planned:

- Coronavirus planning
- Student advising center fate, student fees and campus advising strategies for next year

The issue of the defunding of the student advising center was not taken up due to time needed for the coronavirus discussion.

Ken Allen opened a discussion around an issue raised at the P/P meeting regarding faculty converting courses to pass/fail. Grading is under the purview of the Faculty Senate and this issue deserves more time for discussion. Suggestions included referring the issue to the Student Affairs Committee. Additional Executive Council meetings may be needed to consider the Senate's role in issues that come up during the pandemic.

**6. Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws Comprehensive Review Committee** – Thomas

Chittenden will revise the committee composition based on feedback from the Executive Council, and will presidentially charge the committee.

**7. New Business** – Discussion included suggestions for ensuring a smooth Faculty Senate meeting on Teams. The Executive Council will be invited to join a practice meeting scheduled for Friday.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25p.m.