



FACULTY SENATE

**Executive Council**

February 12, 2018                      4:00 – 5:30 pm  
Waterman 427A

**Minutes**

**Present:** Professors Almstead, Beckage, Burns, Carney, Eyler, Paris, Toolin, Zdatny

**Absent:** Barnaby, Chittenden, Giangreco, Higgins, Prue, Mehrtens

**Guests:** none

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The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. in Waterman 427A

1. **Approval of January 08, 2018 Minutes.** President Paris moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and carried.
2. **Degree Correction.** Laurie Eddy presented degree corrections requested by the College of Arts and Sciences. Evan Eyler moved to approve the degree corrections as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.
3. **Chair's Remarks.** Cathy Paris reported that Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Jim Vigoreaux, has asked for input from the Faculty Senate Executive Council regarding a theme for the university-wide faculty conference. Criteria for the theme includes topics that:
  - are of interest to the broader university community,
  - are timely and relevant to the national discourse,
  - have campus experts available to serve as plenary speakers, or discussion facilitators,
  - have relevance to a major university initiative,
  - are related to the 1<sup>st</sup> year summer read
  - have relevance to one or more sponsored university event, such as a Burack lecture or Blackboard Jungle.

Potential themes were discussed, and included:

- balance of free speech on campus
- nature vs. nurture: how we got to be who we are
- preparing students to be successful in the social aspects of professional life, such as adopting social norms, deferring gratification, public use of inappropriate language, relating outside their own generation, realistic expectations and understanding career development
- Mentoring students in achieving social change.
- Teacher/scholar model.
- Teaching models for student engagement
- Adverse effects of multi-tasking, and social media/personal distractions

4. **Curricular Affairs Committee Report.** Laura Almstead presented one item for the CAC consent agenda:
- Request to eliminate concentrations in the Plant Biology Major. This is a report-out item that does not require a Senate vote.

**Motion:** Cathy Paris called a vote to approve the consent agenda as presented for inclusion on the Faculty Senate February agenda.

**Vote:** 7 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain

5. **Senate Elections.** Laurie Eddy presented an infographic representing the timeline for Senate officer and At-Large Member elections. Senate elections are held in April each year. This year, elections will be held for the office of President-elect, and two seats for At-Large Members to the Executive Council.

**President-Elect** - The term of office for President-elect is one-year, coinciding with the last year of the term of President. At the end of the one-year term, the President-elect succeeds automatically to the office of President for a two-year term. Faculty members with a full-time equivalent of at least 0.10 are eligible to serve. Although Faculty Senate experience is not required, knowledge of the Senate process and culture it is highly desirable for the demanding position of Senate President. Cathy Paris is eligible to run for another term as Senate President. Cathy noted that she is undecided about seeking a third term, and encouraged the Executive Council to consider the position, and to talk to interested colleagues about the upcoming election. Cathy welcomes inquiries about the position, and will make time to have a conversation with all interested candidates.

**At-Large Members to the Executive Council** – Two of the four seats are up for election, those currently held by Char Mehtens and Brian Beckage. Char will have completed two consecutive 3-year terms as Senator, and therefore is ineligible for re-election to serve during the year that immediately follows the period of consecutive service. Brian is eligible and willing to place his name on the ballot for another term. At-Large members are elected from among the elected Senators, and serve as voting members of the Executive Council for a 2-year term.

**The process** for the Senate elections begins in February with notification to the Executive Council and the Faculty Senate regarding the upcoming elections. Nominations will be accepted from the floor of the Senate at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Two ballots will be distributed during the first week of April. One ballot for the office of President-elect will be distributed to all eligible faculty. A separate ballot for the two At-Large Members to the Executive Council will be distributed to the elected Senators. Ballots are open for at least one week. Election results will be announced at the Faculty Senate meeting at the end of April.

6. **Proposal to Increase the Size of the Senate Standing Committees.** Cathy Paris provided background and then opened discussion on a proposal to increase the membership on Senate standing committees.

Last year, the then-freestanding Extension Service was folded into the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. That meant that Extension no longer had, as a unit, positions on our Senate standing committees. Thus, each Senate committee is - or soon will be - smaller by one member. The Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) is smaller by two, as they have twice as many members as our other committees. CAC Chair Laura Almstead has said that this is a real hardship for the CAC, as the volume of new program proposals, together with the increasing number of Academic Program Reviews currently underway, means that the current committee is stretched quite thin. In response to this situation, Laura and Cathy spoke of developing a proposal to permit the chair to appoint two additional at-large members to the committee; these appointments would be subject to the approval of Senate Exec.

Discussion included whether the proposal should address the needs of the CAC specifically, or whether it should apply to all of the Senate standing committees. The chairs of the ERTC and RSCA stated that they did not see a need to increase the size of their committees. Cathy Paris will reach out to the committee chairs not present at this meeting to discuss the needs of their committees. Cathy will send a written proposal to the Executive Council for feedback. Changing the composition of committee membership would require a proposal to amend the Senate Constitution and Bylaws. If the Executive Council recommends the amendment, a ballot would be sent to the full eligible faculty for vote.

**7. Agenda for the P&P Meeting of Thursday, February 22, 2018**

Discussion topics suggested include:

- Metrics used to evaluate the success of the IBB budget model
- Update on both protection of free speech on campus and promotion of an egalitarian learning environment, including the state of UVM and comparison to similar institutions.

**8. Agenda for the Faculty Senate Meeting of February 26, 2018**

- Approval of the January 22 Senate meeting minutes
- Senate President's Remarks: Call for Nominations Senate Leadership Positions
- In-Memoriam for Bertie Boyce, Plant & Soil Science
- UVM Provost's Remarks
- Curricular Affairs Committee Report
- Upcoming Faculty Development Events
- Update on the Sustainability Requirement
- Donna Rizzo – Interim Director of the Gund Institute on the Environment (*pending*)
- New Business
- Adjourn

**9. Use of Student Course Evaluation Data: do we want to pursue this? How?**

Executive Council members will not pursue this topic at this time.

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

11. **Adjourn** – the meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

*Upcoming Meetings:*

*Next Executive Council Meeting with the President and Provost: Thursday, February 22, 2:30-3:30 p.m., PCR*

*Next Faculty Senate Meeting: Monday, February 26, 2018, 4-5:30 p.m., Memorial Lounge*

*Next Executive Council Meeting: Monday, March 19, 2018, 4-5:30 p.m., 427A Waterman*