



FACULTY SENATE

**Executive Council**

March 19, 2018 4:00 – 5:30 pm  
Waterman 427A

**Minutes**

**Present:** Professors Barnaby, Beckage, Burns, Chittenden, Eyler, Giangreco, Paris, Toolin, Zdatny

**Absent:** Professors Almstead, Carney, Higgins, Mehrstens, Prue

**Guests:** Jim Vigoreaux, Alan Maynard, Paul Yoon, Amy Boyd-Austin, Mike Kessler, Joanne Pencak

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The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. in Waterman 427A

1. **Approval of February 12, 2018 Minutes.** President Paris moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and carried.
2. **Chair's Remarks.**
  - Student activism around diversity and inclusion - Cathy Paris asked Jim Vigoreaux to provide an update on the response to the student activists, and the demands still in play. A mediator has been designated and will be meeting with representatives from faculty and administration. One of the demands has to do with the diversity curriculum. Members of the Faculty Senate and the Office of the Provost will be involved in the conversation because the Diversity Curriculum Review Committee has been working on the issues of D1/D2 curriculum and assessment. No meetings have been scheduled yet. The issues and talking points need to be better defined. Cathy Paris also noted that President Sullivan announced two initiatives, including a call for nominations for a faculty fellow for diversity, and the creation of a diversity faculty fellows program.
  - Elections for Faculty Senate President-Elect, and two At-Large Members to the Executive Council will be held in April. Nominations will be accepted from the floor of the Faculty Senate at the March 26 meeting.
3. **President's Commission on Inclusive Excellence (PCIE members)**

Alan Maynard, co-chair of the PCIE, introduced the members of the PCIE present, including Amy Boyd-Austin, Mike Kessler, Paul Yoon, Joanne Pencak, and Jim Vigoreaux. The PCIE is advisory to the President, working through and with Wanda Heading-Grant. PCIE membership includes faculty, administrators, staff, and students. Its mission is to advance the strategic diversity and inclusion goals of UVM. They are currently meeting with many groups on campus to re-engage with campus to hear viewpoints regarding diversity and inclusion at UVM. The PCIE asked the Faculty Senate Executive Council to provide information around the ways students can and have been supported in the D1/D2 courses. Cathy Paris provided an overview of the D1/D2 requirements, the history of how the Diversity requirement was established, how it came to be part of UVM's General Education Program, and the role of the Diversity Curriculum Review Committee (DCRC) and the Assessment Committee conducting assessment of how

existing D1 courses reflect D1 competencies. Evan Eyler spoke as a member of the DCRC to provide an update on the ongoing DCRC effort to update and track courses designated as fulfilling the D1/D2 requirements. He noted that a student representative was welcomed as a member of the DCRC in the Fall 2017, and that there was a fundamental misunderstanding of the role and authority of the DCRC. Curriculum review committees are made up of volunteer faculty members who are engaged in the work as part of their service commitment. They are not responsible for diversity at UVM, or for faculty development. The Executive Council provided thoughts on General Education requirements, assessing and achieving competency, faculty development, student voice in curriculum development, and faculty voice in faculty development.

4. **Curricular Affairs Committee Report.** Cathy Paris presented the CAC consent agenda for Laura Almstead. There was one item on the CAC consent agenda:

- Request to change the BA in Plant Biology offered through CAS to a BS degree.

**Motion:** Cathy Paris moved to approve the CAC consent agenda as presented for inclusion on the Faculty Senate March agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.

5. **Agenda for the P&P Meeting of March 22, 2018 – Cathy Paris**

The following discussion topics were suggested around the recent student activism:

- Does the Faculty Senate have a role to play in resolution of the issues?
- Should SAC invite students to bring issues to their committee, and help guide a process for engagement?
- Variation of viewpoint – academic discourse and movement to a more robust atmosphere
- Faculty diversity training is a workload issue, but the Senate could endorse or not.

6. **Draft agenda for the Faculty Senate Meeting of March 26, 2018**

- Minutes of the January 22 Faculty Senate Meeting
- Resolutions in Memoriam for Bertie Boyce (CALs) and John Brown (CAS)
- UVM President's Remarks, Tom Sullivan (update on student protests)
- CAC Business, Laura Almstead
- Upcoming Faculty Development Events, Jim Vigoreaux
- Update on the First Year Experience, Abigail McGowan
- Update on the Sustainability Requirement, Eyal Amiel and Laura Hill
- Nominations from the floor, Faculty Senate President Elect and at-large members of the Exec Council (2)
- New Business

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

8. **Adjourn** – the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.