Executive Council

April 13, 2020   4:00 – 5:30 pm
Online via Teams

Minutes

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

Absent: Professors Prue, Read

Guests: J. Dickinson

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

1. **Plan for Voting at April full Senate Meeting** – T. Chittenden & L. Eddy demonstrated the challenges encountered when utilizing MS Forms for voting in a Teams meeting.

2. **Approval of March 16th minutes and March 27th minutes.**
   Motion: moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. **Chair's remarks** – Thomas Chittenden made the following remarks:
   a. CNHS & LCOM graduates will be presented for Conferral of Degrees at the April Senate meeting
   b. Final Exam Considerations – there has been much discussion around concerns about the flexibility of exams. The ERTC has been involved in discussion around the technical concerns, such as Blackboard and other methods of assessment. A poll was sent to all Faculty on Thursday.
   c. 2020-21 Academic Calendar Contingency Planning will be discussed under item 6 on this agenda.

4. **Revised General Education Framework** –Cathy Paris and J. Dickinson discussed the timeline and process for bringing the proposal to the Senate for vote. Discussion included the pros and cons of bringing the vote to the Senate in April vs. May, including concerns that the process is not rushed, and that there would be time to make adjustments if needed prior to the end of the academic year. Cathy advocated for a brief presentation and discussion at the April meeting, and a vote in May. J. stated that the timeline that has been included in all of the presentations since November has been a Senate vote in April for presentation to the Board of Trustees in May. The final revisions were presented to the Senate at the March meeting, and were the basis of the open forums that were held at the end of March. Notice of the final revised framework was emailed to all faculty on Tuesday, April 7th.
   Motion: Thomas Chittenden moved to warn a vote on the revised General Education Framework at the April 20th Senate meeting to be conducted via electronic ballot in Lime Survey that will open at the

April 20th meeting and remain open for 2-weeks, until Monday May 4th at 4 PM. The motion was seconded.
Vote: 11 Approve, 2 Oppose. The motion carried.

5. **Teaching Evaluations during Spring 2020.** Susanmarie Harrington opened a discussion on the handling of teaching evaluations this semester. Susanmarie noted that some other universities have suspended or changed the way evaluations are circulated or used in RPT. Clarity is needed on where decisions on teaching evaluations are made at UVM, and what the role is of the Faculty Senate. Discussion included:
   - UVM has a strong desire for departmental autonomy
   - Many UVM colleges are already dealing with evaluations and how the information will be used
   - A hold no harm policy for RPT is desired
   - Evaluations can be a useful source of feedback gathering for a formative evaluation. The information is useful for moving forward for future remote teaching.
   - Similar to the student option of Pass/No-Pass, Faculty may want a choice to use good evaluations for promotion/tenure for the next year.

6. **Agenda for P&P Meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 1:30 p.m.** Agenda items discussed included:
   A. Spring 2020 Course Evaluations – Hold No Harm (Against RPT) Departmental Recommendation from Provosts Office.
   B. Fall Semester Contingency Planning. Preparing for a Fall Without In-Person Classes. BU Outlines COVID-19 Recovery Plan
      - Decision-making timeline for major decisions – a **go/no-go date for on campus return.**
      - Workload concerns/questions for next year including Sabbatical delays.
      - Do we have ways to allow for social distancing in the classroom through capacity planning including hybrid class planning where half of our class sessions need to meet remotely oscillating with other classes using the same physical room?
      - How might the academic calendar be revised, if needed? Thanksgiving break, last day of classes, starting date…
   C. DRAFT Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting of April 20th

7. **Draft agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting of April 20th**

4:00	1. Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks – Thomas Chittenden *[10 min]*
4:10	2. Consent Agenda (**vote**) *[5 min]* • Minutes of the 3/23/20 Faculty Senate Meeting
	3.
4:15	4. Conferral of Degrees for the College of Nursing & Health Sciences (**vote**) *[5 min]*
4:20	5. General Education Framework – Two Week Electronic Lime Survey Vote - J. Dickinson (**vote**) *[30 Minutes]*
4:50	6. Richard Cate on the University Financial Situation *[20 min]*
5:10	7. RLC data – results of the assessment – Provost Prelock *[15 min]*
5:25	8. New Business *[5 min]*
5:30	9. Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.