



FACULTY SENATE

**Executive Council**

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

Minutes

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

**Guests:** J. Dickinson

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The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM online via Microsoft Teams

**1. Approval of April 13, 2020 minutes.**

**Motion:** Jennifer Prue moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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

- a. General Education vote closed. The motion passed to approve the Catamount Core General Education Framework's guiding principles, and a framework of 42 credits in courses distributed across three main areas: Liberal Arts (21 credits); Core Skills (9 credits); and Common Ground Values (12 credits). **Vote:** 90% approve, 9% oppose, 1% abstain.

The approved motion will be presented to the Board of Trustees. J. Dickinson reported that the open forum on General Education highlighted the desire for more clarity on the distribution of credits within the three main areas approved by the ballot. The following proposed motion will be presented for vote at the May Senate meeting:

*Proposed motion: All undergraduate degree students will complete the following requirements: 6 credits in the Arts and Humanities category; 6 credits in Social Sciences; 6 credits in Natural Sciences; 3 credits in Mathematics; 3 credits in Quantitative and Data Literacy; 3 credits in Foundational Writing and Information Literacy; 3 additional credits from either Writing and Information Literacy 2 or Oral Communication and information literacy courses; 3 credits in Sustainability; 3 credits in Global Citizenship; 3 credits of D1 courses, and an additional 3 credits of either D1 or D2 courses.*

Susanmarie Harrington will assist J. Dickinson on wording/visual to simplify and make very clear what the Senate is being asked to vote on.

**Motion:** Cathy Paris moved that the Executive Council support the credit distribution within the three approved General Education categories as outlined above. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

- b. Year in review and appreciation – Thomas welcomed and encouraged feedback on the year. He expressed great appreciation for the hard work of the Executive Council.
  - c. Special FSEC meeting on Tuesday, May 19 proposed at 3 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to approve final degrees after the P/NP deadline, confer the degrees with Honors, and to approve any degree corrections. Laurie will send a meeting invitation.
  - d. FSEC Summer Availability – Thomas has received several calls from faculty concerned about the need for the faculty voice and guidance in conversations on budget and other issues resulting from COVID19. Thomas has expressed to President Garimella that the faculty voice is missing from the UVM Strong committee. President Garimella stated that the UVM Strong committee will set the framework, and that he is fully committed to having faculty serve on subcommittees of UVM Strong that will dive into the implementation decisions. Thomas is exploring the possibility of having the Executive Council meet once per month (June/July/August) over the summer to provide guidance to the Provost on Fall contingency planning, and on the potential re-organization of the University. Issues of availability and compensation are pending. Discussion included faculty concerns about lack of faculty involvement, and practical and logistical concerns, including workload considerations, resources for transition to remote courses, and vulnerable faculty. These concerns will be added to the agenda for the meeting with the President and Provost
  - e. Thomas recognized the following Executive Council members: Cathy Paris, Ken Allen, Don Ross, Regina Toolin, David Massell, and Susanmarie Harrington. This is the final Executive Council meeting for these members who are falling off the committee due to retirement, and end of term. Thank you for your service to the Faculty Senate.
  - f. A personal matter and an apology. Thomas announced that he is running for Vermont State Senate this summer in the Democratic Primary. Thomas apologized for not consulting with the Executive Council as he was considering whether or not to run. Prior to deciding to run, Thomas did consult with VP Chris Burns. If Thomas is successful, he will step down from Senate President.
3. **CAC Consent Agenda** –Laura Almstead presented five items for the CAC consent agenda, and one item to report out that does not require a Faculty Senate vote.
- New Place-Based Education Undergraduate Certificate (CESS, RSENR)
  - New PhD in Sustainable Development Policy, Economics and Governance (CALs)
  - Deactivate the French Master of Arts (CAS)
  - Name Change: Department and programs from Geology to Geology and Environmental Earth Science (CAS)
  - Name Change: MS in Mathematics to the MS in Mathematical Sciences (CEMS)
- Motion:** Evan Eyler moved to place the CAC consent agenda on the agenda for the May Faculty Senate meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
4. **Bylaws Review Committee.** Thomas Chittenden charged the ad hoc committee to begin work on the comprehensive Constitution and Bylaws review. Chris Burns reported that member recruitment is nearly complete. Chris and Laurie Eddy will serve as ex officio voting members, and four of the five faculty members have been successfully recruited. Faculty representation from CESS, CNHS, or RSENR is being sought to fill the final slot. The composition of the committee includes:
1. A serving member of the 2020-21 Faculty Senate Executive Council: Evan Eyler (LCOM)

2. Faculty Senate/Standing Committee Member: Rosi Rosebush (CEMS)
3. Faculty Senate/Standing Committee Member: TBD (CESS, CNHS, RSENR)
4. Faculty Member at large: Cathy Paris (CALs)
5. Faculty Member at large: Susanmarie Harrington (CAS)

5. **Agenda for P&P Meeting on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM Agenda** items discussed included:

1. Fall semester contingency planning - UVM Strong subcommittees or next steps
  - a. Importance of Faculty Involvement & voice
  - b. Faculty Concerns – Practical and Logistical (e.g. transition efforts, workload announcements, lecturers...)
2. Re-organization committee – concerns about timing (pandemic backdrop) and concerns about any accelerated timeline with a June 15<sup>th</sup> deliverable.
3. Draft agenda for Faculty Senate meeting on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

6. **Draft agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 PM**

3:00	1. Faculty Senate President’s Welcome Remarks – Thomas Chittenden [10 min]
3:10	2. Consent Agenda (vote) [2 min] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes of the 4/20/20 Faculty Senate Meeting</li> <li><i>Curricular Affairs</i></li> <li>• New Place-Based Education Undergraduate Certificate (CESS, RSENR)</li> <li>• New PhD in Sustainable Development Policy, Economics and Governance (CALs)</li> <li>• Deactivate the French Master of Arts (CAS)</li> <li>• Name Change: Department and programs from Geology to Geology and Environmental Earth Science (CAS)</li> <li>• Name Change: MS in Mathematics to the MS in Mathematical Sciences (CEMS)</li> <li>• Report Out of items that do not require a Faculty Senate vote</li> </ul>
3:12	3. Presentation of Candidates for Degrees (vote) [8 min]
3:20	4. President Garimella Remarks [10 min]
3:30	5. UVM Board Chair Ron Lumbra [20 min]
3:50	6. General Education Credit Hour Allocation (vote) [20 min] <i>All undergraduate degree students will complete the following requirements: 6 credits in the Arts and Humanities category; 6 credits in Social Sciences; 6 credits in Natural Sciences; 3 credits in Mathematics; 3 credits in Quantitative and Data Literacy; 3 credits in Foundational Writing and Information Literacy; 3 additional credits from either Writing and Information Literacy 2 or Oral Communication and information literacy courses; 3 credits in Sustainability; 3 credits in Global Citizenship; 3 credits of D1 courses, and an additional 3 credits of either D1 or D2 courses.</i>
4:10	7. RLC data – results of the assessment – Provost Prelock [15 min]
4:25	8. New Business [5 min]
4:30	9. Adjourn

**Motion:** Susanmarie Harrington moved to approve the agenda for the May 14<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

7. **FPPC Resolution or Discussion** – Don Ross shared a resolution passed unanimously by the FPPC earlier today. The resolution is attached to these minutes and is on the Provost’s appointment of a committee of deans to review the effectiveness of UVM’s academic structure. The committee of deans has a deadline of June 30 to have a preliminary report for the Provost and President. Don provided background and explained that the FPPC had discussed the desire to look at restructuring earlier in the year (before COVID-19). The resolution calls for the Faculty Senate to be meaningfully involved in the evaluation of the current academic organization and identification of options for organizational changes. “The FPPC recommends that the Faculty Senate proceed in collaborative partnership with the academic administration in this review of our academic organization, with the understanding that

the committee of deans will share information with, report regularly on its work to, and receive advice from, the Executive Council of the Faculty Senate.” The FPPC is not asking for the resolution to come before the Senate for vote in May, but that the Senate President report to the Senate in September.

**8. New Business –**

- Ken Allen opened discussion regarding concerns about the need for faculty to be represented on committees charged by the President & Provost, and the need for support and resources for faculty required to convert to online courses. Thomas Chittenden added the topics to the agenda for the Executive Council meeting with the President and Provost and stated that a resolution could be presented to the Senate under New Business if the issues of concern were not adequately addressed.
- Thomas Chittenden thanked the Chairs for their end-of-year reports and has included their information in the written report to the Board of Trustees.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM