



FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council

January 25, 2021, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Minutes

Present: Professors Burns, Almstead, Chittenden, Beckage, Cushman, Delaney, Eyer, Giangreco, Ikeda, Knodell, Read, Wood

Absent: Professors Borchert, Prue

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM on Microsoft Teams.

1. **Minutes** of the December 2020 meeting were approved as written.
2. **CAC Consent Agenda (vote)** – Laura Almstead presented three items for the CAC Consent Agenda:
 - a. No-Contest Deactivation MS in Athletic Training (GC/CNHS)
 - b. Name Change PhD in Bioengineering (GC/CEMS/LCOM)
 - c. No-Contest Termination MS in Bioengineering (GC/CEMS/LCOM)

Motion: Michael Giangreco moved to approve the items presented for the Faculty Senate consent agenda. The motion was seconded and **carried** unanimously.

3. **Chair's Remarks** - Chris Burns made the following remarks:
 - a. Recruitment for Senate positions. There is currently one open seat for an at-large member, and open seats for next academic year will include two seats for at-large members, and the Vice President. Chris encouraged the Executive Council members to actively recruit senators for the at-large seats. Chris suggested that the Executive Council consider forming a nominating committee to ensure a diverse slate of candidates for the Spring elections.
 - b. DEI initiatives in the Senate. Chris stated the a wider diversity of voices is needed in the Senate. He asked the Executive Council to intentionally think about DEI for committee leadership, at-large members, and for Senate elections in their home units. Discussion included the need for a balanced and strategic approach to DEI, and the importance of personal invitations highlighting the benefits of participation.

4. **Re-org Committee Updates** – Chris Burns reported that the working group and three subgroups on specific tasks are in place. Membership includes faculty members from all of the colleges. Mary Cushman is serving on the working group, and Chris Burns is serving as ex officio and Libraries member of the working group. The working group and the three subgroups held a joint meeting last week and were officially charged by the President and Provost. The discussion in that meeting included a review of what the previous work group had done and where they would be going from here. Several faculty, staff and student working group members made the case that the process needed to be more open and transparent to the campus community going forward. Chris anticipates that the Senate will receive an update and opportunity for discussion in April and May, with a possible vote. That will be followed by more work in the Fall and another report to the Senate in December. Jane Knodell reported that the Financial and Physical Planning Committee (FPPC) has asked the Provost if the FPPC can review the financial analysis component of any models that are brought forward. Jane is awaiting an answer. There may be other aspects that other Senate committees might want to review before it comes before the full Senate.
5. **Process for reviewing College/School restructuring proposals.** – The recent College of Arts and Sciences memo regarding terminating majors, minors, and forming new Schools, has highlighted the need for a process and guidelines for reviewing College/School restructuring, similar to the CAC program proposal review process. The guidelines should include both the process for in-unit review, feedback from the wider campus community, and address how the proposal is reviewed in the Senate. For example, should the review be conducted by the FPPC, CAC, or an ad hoc committee with membership from certain standing committees? Chris Burns would like to have a proposed process and guidelines for reviewing College/School restructuring ready to be presented at the March 15th Senate meeting.
6. **Agenda for P & P Meeting Thursday, January 28, 10:00 – 10:45 AM**
The following items were forwarded as the agenda discussion topics for the Executive Council meeting with the President and Provost schedule for Thursday, January 28, 10:00 – 10:45 AM: What’s the big picture vision? How do we decide, at the University level, what the breadth and depth of our academic offerings will be? What metrics and other factors guide these decisions?
7. **Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting February 1.** Chris Burns presented the following draft agenda:

4:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Faculty Senate President’s Welcome Remarks – Chris Burns <i>[10 min]</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for Nominations for Member at Large for Executive Council • Comprehensive Bylaws Review Committee Report
4:10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Consent Agenda (vote) <i>[5 min]</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of the 12/14/20 Faculty Senate Meeting • Curricular Affairs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No-Contest Deactivation MS in Athletic Training (GC/CNHS) b. Name Change PhD in Bioengineering (GC/CEMS/LCOM)

	c. No-Contest Termination MS in Bioengineering (GC/CEMS/LCOM)
4:15	3. Conferral of Degrees (vote) [5 min]
4:20	4. Faculty of Color Retention Resolution (vote) [30 min]
4:50	5. Child Care Working Group Update [20 min] – Rocki-Lee Dewitt
5:15	6. Academic Freedom Policy [10 min] RSCA – Mary Cushman
5:25	7. New Business [5 min]

Motion: Michael Giangreco moved to approve the agenda for the February 1, 2021 Faculty Senate meeting. The motion was seconded and **carried** unanimously.

8. **New Business** – Chris Burns reminded the Executive Council that there is a new Catamount Core Curriculum Committee being established as an ad hoc joint Faculty Senate/Office of the Provost committee. This ad hoc committee will work to stand up the new General Education requirements through the 2021-2022 academic year. It is envisioned that this committee will transition to a standing Senate Committee in the Fall 2022. The structure of the ad hoc committee will be assessed and adjusted as needed prior to transitioning to a standing Senate Committee. The composition of the ad hoc committee includes 21 voting members (9 faculty reps from undergraduate degree-granting units, Honors College and Libraries; and 12 faculty with expertise in one of the 12 categories encompassed within the Catamount Core). The 9 faculty reps were elected by their units, and the 12 faculty with expertise are to be appointed by the Faculty Senate President and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success. Chris Burns shared a list of potential appointees and requested input from the Executive Council. No objections were made. In addition, the ad hoc committee includes seven (7) non-voting members:

- Two (2) student representatives: one graduate teaching assistant and one undergraduate student,
- The Provost’s Faculty Fellow for Academic Program Review and Assessment,
- A representative from the professional advising collective, representing academic Dean’s Office advisors,
- The Provost’s Faculty Fellow for General Education,
- The Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success,
- A representative from the Faculty Senate Executive Council, appointed by the Faculty Senate President.

Chris Burns asked for a volunteer to serve as the representative from the Executive Council on the ad hoc committee. Terrence Delaney volunteered and will be appointed.

Discussion included questions about the decision to have non-voting members, the desire for reports from the ad hoc committee to the Senate, and the need for communication between Senate committees.

9. Meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM.