



FACULTY SENATE

Financial & Physical Planning Committee
May 4, 2020 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Present: Lisa Aultman- Hall (CEMS), Teresa Cahill-Griffin (CNHS), Thomas Chittenden (Faculty Senate President), Bryan Dague (CESS), Terri Donovan (RSENr), Jane Knodell (CAS), Thomas Noordewier (GSB), Paul Philbin (LIB), Guillermo Rodriguez (CAS), Don Ross (CALs), Cory Teuscher (LCOM).

Absent: Marty Gillies (SGA), Vacant (LCOM), Sandra Nnadi (GSS)

Guests: David Jenemann

The meeting was called to order by chair Don Ross at 2:30pm via Microsoft Teams.

1. Approval of April Minutes. The minutes of April 6, 2020 were approved as written.

2. Update of FPPC resolution.

Resolution on the Provost's appointment of a committee of deans to review the effectiveness of UVM's academic structure

WHEREAS, during the 2019-2020 academic year, the Financial and Physical Planning Committee has raised the question of whether the University's academic organization is efficient, current, and effective, believing that it is a good practice for a university to periodically assess its academic structure, meaning the organization of students, staff and faculty with associated degrees into departments in schools and/or colleges; and

WHEREAS, there has been no significant change to the academic structure of the University of Vermont over past decades, during which time its student body, academic offerings and curriculum have grown and changed significantly; and

WHEREAS, the complexity of the University's offerings and requirements, some of which are overlapping, makes the University harder for undergraduate and graduate students to understand, access, and navigate the degree programs and faculty expertise of the University;

WHEREAS, the economics/fiscal sustainability of higher education have become more challenging over time, a trend which applies to the University of Vermont as well; and

WHEREAS, the current academic organization of the University may increase the cost of academic administration without commensurate benefits;

WHEREAS, at the April 2020 meeting of the FPPC, the committee discussed the idea of an evaluation of our academic organization with Provost Prelock and VP Cate, to be carried out jointly in some fashion between academic administration and the Faculty Senate; and

WHEREAS, since the April meeting of the FPPC, Provost Prelock updated the chair and incoming chair of the FPPC that she had appointed a committee of deans to evaluate the current academic organization of the University and to identify options for organizational changes that would better support faculty and students of the University by reducing complexity and redundancy, reducing barriers to student and faculty success that are created by the current multi-college structure, enhancing the student experience, increasing academic alignments that are contemporary and forward thinking, and reducing administrative costs; and,

Now therefore BE IT RESOLVED, that the Financial and Physical Planning Committee agrees that a review of the academic organization of the University of Vermont is timely, and further believes that our system of shared governance calls for the Faculty Senate to be meaningfully involved in this project, insofar as under the Constitution of the Faculty Senate, the Board of Trustees has empowered the Faculty Senate (Section 1.2) “to review, to recommend, and to participate in the formulation of policy with regard to . . . Academic organization, including the establishment or elimination of colleges and departments and the reorganization of the general university and college academic structure”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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 Committee of the Faculty Senate.

Dean Jenemann as the Dean of the Honors College does not have his own faculty or departments so he is leading the exploration of restructuring. He is working closely with Alex Yin on how the campus is structured from the academic side. Richard Cate and Provost Prelock are looking at the structure of the administrative and support center units. They are using this as an opportunity to look at the health of the university and what is best for students. The timeline for this June 15th as the target date and June 30th as the deadline.

Jane Knodell moved to adopt the resolution; Paul Philbin seconded the motion.

Approve: 10

Abstain: 0

Oppose: 0

The motion passed and will move forward to the Executive Council of the Faculty Senate.

3. Provost Office Update, Patty Prelock and Richard Cate.

1. Enrollment information.

- a. 1st year deposits are down a little but not much. 7% increase on in-state students and 4% decrease on out of state students. There is more net revenue on out of state students.
- b. Returning students are hard to determine. There is really no way to tell until after the add / drop period. This is really a big question and they are looking into all the different scenarios.

2. Budget.

- a. The BOT will not approve the budget until September.

- b. Additional costs to the budget due to COVID-19.
 - i. Plexi glass shields, hand sanitizers, and covid-19 testing. Generally, these additional costs are predictable and going into this year they are not.
- c. The university is off the budgeting target but not by that much, but as things change that can also change.
- d. Financial Aid has stayed the same. They are looking for more help from the state. 35% of out of state students stay in Vermont. They are also working on ways to helping more Vermonters in areas that fit the land grant mission. Also looking into automatic pathways from CCV and starting to build them with VTC.
- e. Currently they have not tapped into the 34 Million (one time) reserve but depending on how things progress them may need to.
- f. There was a 5 million payout last year from Residential Life for board due to COVID-19.
- g. The Athletics project on campus has been slowed down.
- h. They are currently re-evaluation the new medical building, this project does not come with debt.
- i. Human Resources is looking into early retirement options.

The FPPC would like to continue to be involved in budget and restructuring conversations in a meaningful way moving forward. The FPPC promotes transparency and Provost Prelock will remind the Deans of how important it is.

- 4. 2020 / 2021 FPPC.** Jane Knodell will serve as the chair of the committee. Meetings will start again in September.