



Financial & Physical Planning Committee  
Septmeber 14, 2020 2:00 – 3:30 pm  
Microsoft Teams

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Terry Bradshaw (CALs), Thomas Chittenden (Faculty Senate President), Terri Donovan (RSENR), Tony Julianelle (CEMS), Jane Knodell (CAS), Paul Philbin (LIB), Guillermo Rodriguez (CAS), Andrey Ukhov (GSB), Cory Teuscher (LCOM), Andrey Ukhov (GSB), Haley Woodside-Jiron (CESS)

**Absent:** Teresa Cahill-Griffin (CNHS), Pending (SGA), Pending (LCOM), Pending (GSS)

**Guests:** Chris Burns (Faculty Senate VP), Richard Cate, Patty Prelock.

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

#### **1. Introductions.**

Ukhov, Andrey	GSB	2018-2021
Cahill-Griffin, Teresa	CNHS	2020-2023
Teuscher, Cory	LCOM	2019-2022
Woodside-Jiron, Haley	CESS	2020-2023
Terry Bradshaw	CALS	2019-2022
Donovan, Terri	RSENR	2018-2021
Knodell, Jane (chair)	CAS	2018-2021
Philbin, Paul	LIB	2019-2022
Julianelle, Anthony	CEMS	2020-2023
Rodriguez, Guillermo	CAS	2019-2022
Pending	LCOM	2018-2021
Pending	GSS	2020-2021
Pending	SGA	2020-2021

**2. Approval of April Minutes.** The minutes of May 4, 2020 were approved as written.

#### **3. Committee Agenda 2020 / 2021**

- Tracking the impact of Covid-19 on UVM finances.
- Engaging administration in the short and long-term budget strategy.
- Understanding financial flows between UVM and the Foundation.
- Building knowledge and understanding of UVM finances on the FPPC and among the faculty in general.
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#### 4. Update from Richard Cate and Patty Prelock.

- Covid-19 testing on campus has been very successful with low positive rates.
- The first time, first year number is between 150 to 200 less than what was hoped for.
- There are more first year Vermonters than have been in the past, however less out of state first years.
- Deferrals are up from last year. 203 deferrals for the fall and 65 for the spring. That is about double from years past. About 58% of deferrals actually enroll, the university is working on strategies to improve this. The sophomore class is the class with the most impact.
- 1447 undergraduate students are learning from home. When you add the continuing education and graduate students it is over 2000 students.
- Today is the last day of add / drop, once these numbers are updated there will be a clearer picture.
- The state has provided funding for COVID related costs for FY 20 for about 8.7 million. The university used these funds for direct expenses including testing, technology and safety equipment.
- The state is providing 19 million more for FY 21 with the possibility of another 10 million. Currently the university has spent about 11 so far in FY 21. There is going to be continued expenses around Covid-19 still to come.
- There have been about 11 ½ million dollars in administrative cuts. These cuts have come from deferred maintenance, reduced utilities and reduced salaries. Richard stated that the administration is looking to get about the same amount of reductions from the academic units.
- The uncommitted reserve remains at \$34 m. Richard does not endorse tapping into this reserve to close the FY21 budget gap. Colleges and schools may have to draw down their reserves if the needed level of expense reductions is not attained.
- Medical School Research Building, is proceeding as planned as there is no debt associated with this new building. The money has come from deans' resources, private funding and the University of Vermont Medical Center. There is some concern about this building and the committee would like more information on the decision-making process around this new building.

#### 5. Other Business.

- **UVM Restructuring Update.** The FPPC passed a resolution in May of 2020 so that they could be meaningfully involved in the restructure process. The senate is connected to this work by weekly meetings between Faculty Senate President Chittenden and Dean Jenemann, Chair of the restructuring committee. The other administrative members are Bill Falls, Linda Schadler, Nancy Mathews, Jennifer Dickinson, Kirk Dombrowski, Alex Yin, and Shari Bergquist. Also, there have been two faculty members appointed to the committee. Dean Jenemann will be presenting to the full senate at the October Faculty Senate meeting.

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.

Provost Prelock appointed Dean Jenemann, Dean of the Honors College, as the chair of this committee. The Honors College is central, University-wide, and does not have its own faculty or departments, so its dean is well positioned to lead 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 15<sup>th</sup> as the target date and June 30<sup>th</sup> as the deadline.

The FPPC meeting was adjourned at 3:56 pm. The next meeting of the FPPC will take place on October 5, 2020 via Microsoft Teams.

Agenda items for October meeting at this time: UVM budget overview presentation by VP Cate.