



The University of Vermont  
FACULTY SENATE

**Minutes**

Monday, August 23, 2021

Online via Microsoft Teams 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Recording of this meeting is available on [Microsoft Sharepoint](#)

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The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President, Thomas Borchert at 3:00 PM

**Senators in Attendance: 64**

**Absent:** Senators Callahan (Extension), Weinstein (Family Medicine), Terrien (Medicine), Gorres (Plant & Soil Science), Schnell (English), Moore (Pediatrics), Ali (Radiology), Maruti (Psychiatry), Ahern (Surgery), Calkins (Family Medicine), Mierse (Art & Art History), Tharp (Anesthesiology), Mieder (German & Russian), Senator Pending (Sociology)

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**1. Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks** – Thomas Borchert made the following remarks:

- The pandemic continues to be a challenge and create concern
- Three areas of significant ongoing work in the Senate are: 1) Academic Reorganization – the working groups are expected to come back to the Senate in November; 2) Catamount Core – an ad hoc, joint committee of the Provost's Office and the Faculty Senate is charged with developing the process to stand up the new Catamount Core General Education system by the Fall of 2023; 3) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – last Spring, the Senate charged an ad hoc committee to examine issues of DEI.
- President Borchert's goals for the Senate: Ensure faculty voice and representation to improve the partnership between the Faculty Senate and the Administration by increasing understanding of university fiscal and physical resources and increasing structures for participating in long-term strategic planning.
- Tom Borchert will be holding Senate Office Hours the week after each Senate meeting. Communication is welcome in person, on Teams, or via email.

**2. Consent Agenda** – The following items were voted as a consent agenda:

- Minutes of the May 20, 2021, Faculty Senate meeting
- Degree Corrections from May 2021

**Motion:** President Borchert stated that the consent agenda came to the Senate moved and seconded by the Executive Council. A call was made for requests to pull any item off the consent agenda before the vote. No requests were received, and the vote opened.

**Vote: 54 approve, 0 oppose, 2 abstained. The motion carried.**

**3. Presentation of Degrees** – It was moved, seconded, and voted that the following numbers of graduates be recommended by the Senate to the President for the awarding of the appropriate degrees or certificates as authorized by the Board of Trustees. Individual names of the graduates are recorded with the Minutes of this meeting in the permanent Senate records.

Degrees:

- Agriculture and Life Sciences (22)
- Arts and Sciences (48)
- Education and Social Services (6)
- Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (16)
- Graduate College (145)
- Grossman School of Business (20)
- Larner College of Medicine (1)
- Nursing and Health Sciences (4)
- Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources (8)

**Vote: 52 approve, 0 oppose. 1 abstained. The motion carried.**

**4. Call for Nominations** – President Borchert announced that the Faculty Senate is seeking nominations for one **Member At-Large** to the Faculty Senate Executive Council to complete the final 10-months of the 2-year term being vacated by Brian Beckage. The at-large member term will begin immediately and end on June 30, 2022. Elected Faculty Senators are eligible to serve as member at-large to the Senate Executive Council. A list of current [elected Senators](#) is available on the Faculty Senate website. In keeping with the bylaws, four (4) members at-large serve as the voice of the elected senators at the Executive Council meetings. Terms are staggered so that half of the members at-large are elected each year, and no more than two of the members at-large may be from the same School or College. Our current members at-large are Tony Julianelle (CEMS), Kyle Ikeda (CAS), and Ignacio Lopez-Vicuna (CAS). Because there are two members at large from CAS, **Senators representing the College of Arts and Sciences are not eligible to fill this vacant seat.** Self-nominations are encouraged. Nominations may be submitted online via [webform](#) no later than 6:00 p.m. on **Monday, August 30, 2021**. The election will be held by electronic ballot, distributed via email to all elected Senators during the first week of September. The ballot will be open for one-week.

**5. Welcome and Presidential Award Recipient Announcements** – President Suresh Garimella announced the recipients of two awards presented annually to honor and recognize the distinguished accomplishments of faculty members. The President’s Distinguished Senior Lecturer Award honors and recognizes outstanding teaching, scholarship, and service. The President’s Distinguished University Citizenship and Service Award acknowledges exceptional service by a UVM faculty member who is recognized as a true university citizen for contributions to Institutional building at UVM. The 2020-2021 award recipients are:

- President’s Distinguished Lecturer Award – Kelly Hamshaw, Senior Lecturer, Department of Community Development & Applied Economics in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

- President's Distinguished University Citizenship and Service Award – Lawrence Shelton, Associate Professor in Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Education and Social Services. Professor Shelton retires after 50 years of service to UVM, during which he made an indelible impact on UVM's teaching methodologies, research standards and faculty governance.

President Garimella acknowledged the challenges of the pandemic, and the faculty's hard work and creativity in keeping the educational mission of the university going strong despite the challenges. President Garimella will be sending a letter to the campus community to share highlights of the faculty, staff, and student accomplishments during the past year. Highlights include a record high level of faculty research funding, which reached over \$200 million in external awards, renewed efforts to engage with people and businesses of Vermont through the UVM Office of Engagement, the success of the newly launched SOAR campaign for student success and raising funds for the Our Common Ground scholarship. President Garimella also noted that his goals for this year are guided by the strategic imperatives outlined in Amplifying Our Impact, focused on students, and a healthy return to campus. He is also looking forward to the return of in-person faculty breakfasts with the President and Provost.

**6. Senate Orientation and Committee Introduction** – Thomas Borchert provided an overview of the structure of the Faculty Senate, including the Executive Council and the six standing committees. Presentation slides are attached to these minutes. President Borchert stated that a long-standing goal is to create a stronger relationship between the Senate as a whole and the standing committees. Chairs of the six standing committees were introduced and presented the goals for their committee this year.

**Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC)** – Co-Chairs Colby Kervick and Stephen Everse. In addition to the ongoing review of curricular proposals and academic program review, the CAC plans to continue conversations around the Catamount Core, and to meet with the chairs of the unit level curriculum committees to talk about curricular issues that are coming up around the university and the protocols in place for proposals.

**Educational Research Technologies Committee (ERTC)**– Co-Chairs Helen Read and Marie Wood. The ERTC reviews and recommends policies relating to campus wide technologies, including computers, communications, electronic data handling, and instructional software. The ERTC works closely with folks from Enterprise Technology Services (ETS), and often functions as a focus group for ETS or the Center for Teaching and Learning when there is a new technology on the horizon.

**Research, Scholarship, and The Creative Arts Committee (RSCA)** – Co-Chairs Mary Cushman and Mildred Beltre. The RSCA considers matters that are relevant to supporting the success of research, scholarship and the creative arts for faculty and students. The RSCA participates in formulation of policy with respect to the support services for these programs, such as allocation of space, library resource, etc. Meetings include regular interactions with the VP for Research, the Dean of Libraries, Sponsored Program Administration, Dean of the Graduate College and with the Humanities Center. Goals for the year will be developed during the initial meetings.

**Professional Standards Committee (PSC)** – Chair Carolyn Bonifield. The PSC serves as advisory to the Provost on all matters related to reappointment, promotion and tenure (RPT) decisions,

as well as on sabbatical applications. The goal for year is to continue to provide comprehensive reviews of all the documents that reach the PSC for both RPT and sabbaticals.

**Student Affairs Committee (SAC)** – Co-Chairs Jennifer Prue and Terrence Delaney. The SAC focuses on issues that relate to the student experience on campus such as recommendations that improve the climate and the culture for our students' learning at UVM. The SAC recommends policy around issues that impact students. One goal this year is the ongoing collaboration with Enrollment Management. Items for consideration can be brought to the SAC by students, the Student Government Association, or other student groups, faculty, colleges, or administrative offices.

**Financial and Physical Planning Committee** – Chair Jane Knodell. The FPPC talks about money and space and has regular meetings with the VP for Finance Administration and the Provost, who give updates on the budget as we move through the academic year. This year, the FPPC will be receiving some data on actual outcomes at the end of the fiscal year, to help with understanding the connection between what is in the general fund and what is going on in the UVM budget. The FPPC will also look into the connection between UVMs operating budget and the UVM Foundation, and the relationship between the Larner College of Medicine budget and the university budget. Another goal is to build faculty understanding of the IBB model and how it works.

**7. Status of Senate Procedures related to administrative organization.** Tom Borchert reminded the Senate that at the May meeting, the Senate passed a group of procedures seeking to clarify and regularize the role of the Senate in situations of academic reorganization, that are not specifically curricular in nature. When the Senate takes an action, that action is reported to the President who approves the action, disapproves it, acknowledges it or delays taking action. The administration had concerns about the nature and timeline of the processes passed by the Senate. These procedures are meant to work to the benefit of both the Senate and the administration and require a partnership. Meetings were held over the summer months with Immediate Past-President Chris Burns, Vice-President Evan Eyler, President Borchert, President Garimella, Provost Prelock, and Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs J. Dickinson, to build understanding of the concerns and to suggest changes to accommodate the needs and interests of the faculty and of the administration.

Chris Burns and J. Dickinson provided an overview of the background the development and Senate approval of the processes, and the administration's goals for the processes. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes. Tom Borchert stated that a proposed revision to the processes will be presented for Senate discussion in September, with an anticipated vote on the proposed revision at the October Senate meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:46 PM

# Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont

Senator Orientation  
Fall 2021

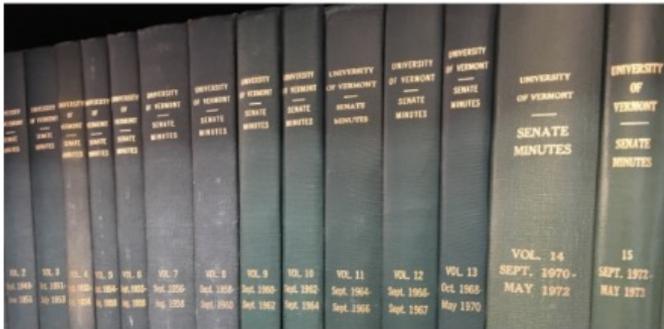


The University of Vermont

# Faculty Senate

- ▶ Mission and Function
- ▶ Partners in Shared Governance
- ▶ Structure of the Faculty Senate
- ▶ Faculty Senators: Roles and Responsibilities
- ▶ Introduction to the Senate Standing Committees
- ▶ Questions and Discussion

## Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws



### CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, FACULTY SENATE

*Last revised: October 2001. Approved by the Faculty Senate November 19, 2001. Approved by the Board of Trustees February 23, 2002.*

*Amended: May 1, 2006; March 14, 2011; April 23, 2012; February 13, 2014; November 12, 2015; December 23, 2015*

#### PREAMBLE

The administration and the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont share responsibility for the effective management of the academic affairs of the University. Authority in matters related to the academic mission of the University is vested in the faculty by the Board of Trustees. This authority is exercised in the Faculty Senate by elected senators with voting privileges and by committees authorized to act on their behalf. Meetings of the Faculty Senate are presided over by a President and Vice-President and follow a town-meeting format at which all University faculty members have a voice. The activities of the Senate are overseen by an Executive Council.



“Authority in matters related to the academic mission of the University is vested in the faculty by the Board of Trustees. This authority is exercised in the Faculty Senate”

# Mission & Function of the Faculty Senate

## Constitution and Bylaws

- ▶ Authority: Under the authority of the Board of Trustees, the UVM Faculty Senate is empowered:

1.1 To review and **establish policy** with respect to .. all curricular matters, research and scholarship, requirements for regular certificates and degrees, professional standards and criteria for positions accorded academic rank.

1.2 To review, **recommend, and participate in the formulation of policy**, e.g., institutional priorities; allocation and utilization of the University's resources; the establishment or elimination of colleges and departments; faculty appointment, promotion, tenure, dismissal, leaves, and economic benefits; admission procedures and quotas; student financial aid.

# Mission & Function of the Faculty Senate

## Constitution and Bylaws -

### Preamble

- ▶ The administration and the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont share responsibility for the effective management of the **academic affairs of the University.**
- ▶ Meetings of the Faculty Senate are presided over by a President and Vice-President and follow a town-meeting format at which all University faculty members have a voice.
- ▶ The activities of the Senate are overseen by an Executive Council.

# Partners in Shared Governance

- ▶ The **administration**, led by the president and the senior vice president/provost, and the **Faculty Senate** share responsibility in managing the university's academic affairs.
- ▶ The **Staff Council** works with the administration on issues and policies that affect university staff.
- ▶ The **Student Government Association** and **Graduate Student Senate** also play advisory roles to the administration, as well as recognizing student clubs and organizations and allocating funding.

# Structure of the UVM Faculty Senate

<b>SENATE STAFF</b>	<b>Faculty Senate Executive Council</b>	
	<b>Elected Senators (72, one from each academic program or department)</b>	Catamount Core Curriculum Committee (Gen Ed) (joint with the Provost's Office)
	<b>Senate Standing Committees (78 members)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Curricular Affairs</b></li> <li>• <b>Educational &amp; Research Technologies</b></li> <li>• <b>Financial &amp; Physical Planning</b></li> <li>• <b>Professional Standards</b></li> <li>• <b>Student Affairs</b></li> <li>• <b>Research, Scholarship, &amp; the Creative Arts</b></li> </ul>	Ombudsperson  Ad Hoc Committee for Diversity Equity and Inclusion

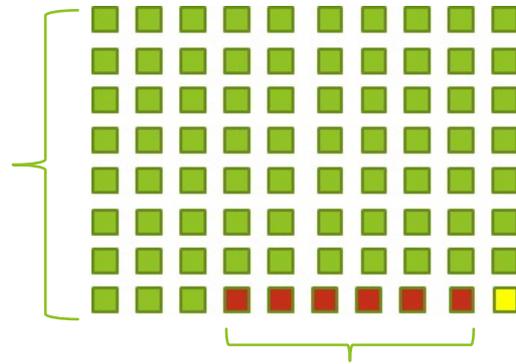
# Role of the President

- ▶ From our Constitution and Bylaws, the Faculty Senate President:
  - ▶ ....s/he shall preside at meetings of the Faculty Senate;
  - ▶ ....serve as the Faculty's spokesperson and consultant with the administration, the Staff Council, the student body, the Board of Trustees, and the extra-university community on matters within the jurisdiction of the Senate.

# The Faculty Senate

Voting Members of the Faculty Senate ~78

Elected Faculty  
Senators (72)



Elected Chairs of our six (6)  
Standing Committees (SAC,  
PSC, ERTC, RSCA, FPPC,  
CAC)

In case of a  
Tie, Faculty  
Senate  
President

# Quorum

- ▶ 4.6 Quorum. For action on *warned* motions (one week notice), a quorum is the majority of the total number of voting members of the Senate. For motions that have *not been warned* in advance, a quorum is three-quarters of the total number of voting members of the Senate. A motion is approved if a quorum is present and a majority of those voting approve the proposal.
- ▶ Voting Members of the Senate: 78
- ▶ Quorum: 40
- ▶ Measured by registered attendance in FORMS during the meeting on MS Teams

# Approval of Resolutions

- ▶ 4.7 Approval of Resolutions. Resolutions will be considered to have been adopted by the Faculty Senate if a quorum is present and a majority of those voting approve the proposal. Any issue may go to referendum upon request of ten percent of the eligible faculty. Every eligible faculty member will be allowed at least one week to respond to the referendum. The resolution will be considered to have been adopted if a majority of the referendum responses favor it, provided at least 25 percent of the eligible faculty members cast valid ballots in the referendum.
- ▶ Warned Items:
  - ▶ Resolutions will pass if a majority of those voting approve.
- ▶ Unwarned items:
  - ▶ Resolutions will pass if 2/3 of those voting approve.
- ▶ For purposes of calculating the majority of the votes, only yes/no votes are considered. Abstentions do not factor into calculation of majority support or lack thereof.

# How do matters come to the Senate?

## And what happens to them?

### 4.4 Agenda.

**4.4.1 Formulation.** The Executive Council (see 8. below) will prepare the agenda of each Senate meeting from proposals submitted by faculty members, Faculty Senate committees, representatives of student governing bodies and administrative officials. Items presented in the form of a petition signed by ten percent of the full membership of the Faculty Senate (as defined in Section 2.2) or of five percent of the members of the eligible faculty (as defined in Section 2.1) must be included on the agenda.

# Faculty Senators: Roles and Responsibilities

- ▶ **Prepare** for Senate meetings by reviewing meeting materials posted online
- ▶ **Attend** Senate meetings regularly, participate in discussion and voting
  - ▶ Or send a Delegate
- ▶ **Carry information** between the Senate and the unit you represent
- ▶ **Represent** your constituency in all voting matters

# Faculty Senate Committees - Chairs

**Senate Executive Council - Chair: Thomas Borchert**

## ▶ Standing Committees

- ▶ Curricular Affairs - Colby Kervick and Stephen Everse (Co-Chairs)
- ▶ Educational & Research Technologies - Helen Read & Marie Wood (Co-Chairs)
- ▶ Research, Scholarship, and the Creative Arts - Mildred Beltre and Mary Cushman (Co-Chairs)
- ▶ Financial & Physical Planning - Jane Knodell
- ▶ Student Affairs - Jennifer Prue & Terrence Delaney (Co-Chairs)

Each Standing Committee includes at least one member from each academic unit.

# Executive Council

- ▶ **Membership:** Senate President, VP, Immediate Past president, Standing Committee Chairs (6), at-large members (4)
- ▶ **Duties:** Oversight of Faculty Senate Authority
  - ▶ Set agendas for Faculty Senate Meetings
  - ▶ Monitor Senate committee activities, establish priorities as needed
  - ▶ Consider budgetary implication for University policies and make appropriate recommendations to the Faculty Senate and the administration
  - ▶ Arrange for (at least annual) presentation to the Faculty Senate on the University financial situation
  - ▶ Liaison between Faculty Senate and Faculty Union

# Faculty Senate Executive Council

- ▶ Stephen Everse, Co-Chair, Curricular Affairs Committee
- ▶ Colby Kervick, Co-Chair, Curricular Affairs Committee
- ▶ Helen Read, Co-Chair, Educational & Research Technologies Committee
- ▶ Marie Wood, Co-Chair, Educational & Research Technologies Committee
- ▶ Jane Knodell, Chair, Financial & Physical Planning Committee
- ▶ Carolyn Bonifield, Chair, Professional Standards Committee
- ▶ Mildred Beltre, Co-Chair, Research, Scholarship & The Creative Arts
- ▶ Mary Cushman, Co-Chair, Research, Scholarship & The Creative Arts
- ▶ Terrence Delaney, Co-Chair, Student Affairs Committee
- ▶ Jennifer Prue, Co-Chair, Student Affairs Committee
- ▶ Kyle Ikeda, Member-At-Large (2020-2022)
- ▶ Vacant Seat, Member-At-Large (2020-2022)
- ▶ Tony Julianelle, Member-At-Large (2021-2023)
- ▶ Ignacio Lopez-Vicuna, Member-At-Large (2021-2023)
- ▶ Thomas Borchert, President
- ▶ Evan Eyler Vice President
- ▶ Christopher Burns, Immediate Past President

**Discussion regarding the  
Senate Procedures for  
the Establishment,  
Reorganization and  
Elimination of various  
levels of academic units**



The University of Vermont

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## How we got where we are

Prior reviews for CEMS restructuring proposals

- 2005 (handled by CAC with an ad hoc process) – creation of School of Engineering
- 2016 (handled by Ad hoc Committee with ad hoc process) – dissolution of School of Engineering

Vice Provost Brian Reed and Faculty Senate President begin work on creating standardized process for reviewing restructuring proposals.

Fall 2020 – A number of possible changes in CAS are put forward in a memo by Dean Falls, including the possibility of two new Schools in the College.



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## How we got where we are (cont.)

December 2020, Chris Burns addresses Senate on current lack of a formal review process for proposals relating to academic unit structure.

Three draft processes for review of proposals relating to academic unit structure presented to the Senate at March 2021 meeting.

Revised processes presented to the Senate at April 2021 meeting.

Processes amended and approved by Senate at May 2021 meeting.

Informed by similar processes at other institutions, such as Penn State and Umass Amherst.



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## Administration's Goals for the processes (J)

Streamline the process and provide clarity for proposers, FS leadership, and committee

Allow for timely consideration of proposals

Balance the role of the Senate with extensive work usually done at the unit level prior to the proposal coming forward to the FS, with the role of the Senate

Allow the Senate to better fulfill its role of offering a university-wide faculty perspective on the potential value and impacts of a given proposal



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# Where we go from here

## Prospective schedule

- August discuss state of procedures
- September meeting Senate reviews/discusses revised procedures
- October meeting Senate votes on

## Goals of these procedures

- Ensure faculty have clear opportunities for voicing support or raising objections
- Ensure Faculty Senate's responsibility to "review and advise"
- Regularize "appropriate governance protocols" described in University Manual (204.1)



# Questions and Discussion



The University of Vermont