



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Monday, March 15, 2021

Online via Microsoft Teams 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM. Microsoft Teams was experiencing a global outage. A rollcall was conducted to establish quorum, and vote on an unwarned item that was time sensitive. The March Faculty Senate meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, March 22, 2021, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Senators in Attendance: 62*

*Due to multiple challenges for joining, staying connected, or accessing features on Teams, individual attendance for this meeting is not being recorded with the minutes.

Resolution to Change the 2021 Graduation Dates - Chris Burns and J. Dickinson presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS the University of Vermont 2021 commencement ceremonies are currently scheduled to take place on Saturday May 22 and Sunday May 23 and,

WHEREAS the University must seek special approval from the State of Vermont to hold large gatherings and,

WHEREAS a weekday commencement ceremony soon after the end of exams poses fewer health and safety risks than the currently scheduled Spring 2021 commencement dates,

IT IS MOVED that the Faculty Senate approve changing the 2021 graduation dates from May 22 and May 23 to May 20 (Thursday) and May 21 (Friday).

The floor was opened for discussion. Gary Derr, Vice President for Operations and Public Safety, took questions from senators regarding UVM's plan for in-person commencement, and the State of Vermont guidance regarding gatherings.

Chris Burns called a vote on the resolution. Laurie Eddy conducted a roll-call vote of the elected senators. A 3/4 quorum was verified, and the resolution carried. **Vote: 96% approve, 2% oppose, 2% abstain. The resolution passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 PM.