



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Monday, October 24, 2022
On Microsoft Teams 4:00 – 5:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President, Thomas Borchert at 4:01 PM

Senators in Attendance: 69

Absent: Senators Vacant (Anesthesiology Rep2), Vacant (Chemistry), Conroy (Counseling, Human Development & Family Science), Ramirez-Harrington (Economics), Cowles (Education Rep1), Calkins (Family Medicine Rep2), Terrien (Medicine Rep1), White (Physics), Ali (Radiology Rep2), Cockrell (Surgery Rep1)

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

- The Faculty Senate will soon be receiving a proposal that was passed by the College of Arts and Sciences to reorganize the language departments into a School of World Languages and Cultures. An ad hoc committee will be assigned to review the proposal using the procedures passed by the Faculty Senate last year.
- Faculty are encouraged to attend the open sessions of the Board of Trustees meeting this week. The materials to be discussed are available on the UVM website.
- The Faculty Senate Executive Council approves the Senate agenda which may include an item for “senate education” scheduled during the last 25-30 minutes of the meeting. Examples of these agenda items include the September presentation on DEI, and the October presentation by the Chief Safety and Compliance Officer. The December meeting will include a presentation by the Chief Information Officer.

2. Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the September Faculty Senate meeting were approved as written.

Vote: 57 approved, 0 opposed, 2 abstained. The motion carried

3. Conferral 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: Graduate College (30)

Vote: 58 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. The motion carried

4. Resolution: Juneteenth Addition to Academic Calendar – Thomas Borchert presented the following resolution:

Whereas the University of Vermont Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws states in section 1 (authority) that the Faculty Senate is empowered to approve the Academic Calendar prepared by the Registrar;

Whereas Juneteenth was added to the list of recognized administrative holidays beginning Summer 2022;

Whereas summer standard meeting patterns will be adjusted as necessary each summer session to meet minimum definition of a credit hour;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that beginning with Summer 2023 the University of Vermont Academic Calendar will: 1. Include a Juneteenth holiday. Observance will be in alignment with the federal holiday.

Discussion included a statement by the University Registrar, Veronika Carter, that the day of the week that Juneteenth falls will vary from summer to summer, and UVM will follow the federally observed Juneteenth holiday. The Registrar's Office will work with Professional and Continuing Education, and the Colleges and Schools to draft the summer meeting pattern calendar to ensure that we meet the definition of a credit hour, that there is a 15-minute break between the standard meeting patterns.

Vote: 56 **approved**, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. **The resolution carried.**

5. Senate Representation – Thomas Borchert reminded the Senate that due to time constraints at the September Senate meeting, this item has returned for discussion and questions. The September meeting included a presentation by Chris Burns regarding the results of the Executive Council's study of how Senate representation is allocated. The study was completed to fulfill the charge of a resolution passed by the Faculty Senate in December 2021. The report and charts highlighting three models of representation were included with the agenda. The Executive Council recommended that the Senate take no action in the current moment to change the method of representation. Discussion included concerns about service loads and equity in service loads, and the relationship between the full senate and the senate committees.

6. Proposal for Procedures to Establish Centers or Institutes

Thomas Borchert presented a draft document that would establish procedures for Senate review of proposals to establish centers or institutes. According to the University Manual, Centers and Institutes need to be approved by the Senate and then the President, Provost and Board of Trustees. The draft procedures are attached to these minutes, and include a template for proposals, and procedures and timeline for reviewing proposals. The Faculty Senate Research, Scholarship and Creative Arts Committee (RSCA) would serve as the primary reviewing committee. Proposals would be circulated to faculty and staff for a 2-

week public comment period. Upon completion of the review, the RSCA would provide a recommendation to the Faculty Senate for vote. Thomas Borchert asked senators to review this draft procedures, and submit questions or concerns to Thomas.Borchert@uvm.edu prior to the November Senate meeting, when the procedures will be discussed and voted.

7. Changes to the Fleming Organization

The Faculty Senate is currently reviewing a proposal to have the Director of the Fleming Museum report to the Director of the School of the Arts. The Senate is reviewing this because such a change would mean that the University Manual would need to be changed, as that document currently states that the Director of the Fleming reports to the Provost. The Faculty Senate is reviewing this proposal in our advisory capacity to the Administration and the Board of Trustees. The proposal from the Provost's Office will be distributed to voting members of the Faculty Senate by email. Comments to be considered on this proposal should be submitted via the webform link in the email by noon on Monday, November 7th. A separate feedback webform will be distributed to the Fleming staff. The proposed change to the Fleming organization will be on the November agenda of the Faculty Senate for discussion and vote.

8. Student Affairs Committee (SAC) report and discussion of outside of class expectations.

SAC member, Scott Van Keuren, reported that the SAC has been discussing the issue of outside of class expectations, which was brought to the SAC by the Student Government Association. The concern is the burden placed on students when activities that are not included in the syllabus, or in the expanded course description, are announced at the last minute in a lecture or email. Concerns include impact on grades, and conflict with policies on accessibility. In 2019, the SAC conducted a survey of students (details at https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Faculty-Senate/SAC_minutes_March2019.pdf) to get a sense of how students are informed of course expectations which occurred outside of a course's scheduled meeting time and that impact the course grade. Discussion included the desire for a more comprehensive survey, and the need for attention to gaps in policies designed to protect student rights when it comes to out of class activities and especially the timeliness with which they are notified. Gaps exist in the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy and UVM's Accessibility policy. The SAC is discussing alternative language to suggest to the Dean of Students for some of these policies, and other remedies to lessen the burden on students. Senators are asked to remind their colleagues to include outside of class expectations in the expanded course descriptions. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes.

9. Reports that do not require a Senate vote – Thomas Borchert shared a report from the Curricular Affairs Committee regarding two recently approved prefix changes:

- The College of Arts and Sciences will use the prefix CAS for a variety of college curricular offerings including internships, academic success strategy courses not tied to a department within CAS, interdisciplinary courses, and honors numbers for individually designed majors.

- The prefix change from BSAD to BUS in the Grossman School of Business.

10. Campus Safety – Michael Schirling, Chief Safety and Compliance Officer was invited to provide an update on campus safety and strategies designed to create a safe and secure university. Schirling reported that the Division of Safety and Compliance has been working on transitioning from an organizational structure that is more centered around people than process and pivoting to a structure that is centered around process that can produce consistent results regardless of who the people are in various chairs. Offices and Departments reporting to Schirling are UVM Police Services, Compliance and Privacy Services, Enterprise Risk management, Risk Management and Safety, CATcard Service Center, and Emergency Management. Structural projects highlighted include:

- Reconstituting threat assessment operating methodology. Reconstituting a threat assessment team and refining existing policy that is making its way through the policy system now. Building a set of operating guidelines that have existed but have not been previously written down. Working with the FBI and Department of Homeland Security for training on threat assessment.
- Reconstituting Emergency Management function. Interaction with state entities, the city, and UVM operations for continuity of operations for weather events, substantial human caused events or other kinds of disasters that impact the campus.
- Building systems to bring a learning management system to bear, lean process training or process improvement training, and modernizing systems. Examples include Homeland Security grants for enhanced CCTV camera surveillance outside and in green spaces and outside areas, and building out the LiveSafe app to enable any affiliate to contact emergency services quickly.

Discussion included active shooter information and awareness for classroom safety, and avoiding conflicts in the context of student protests

11. New Business – none at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM