



Minutes

Monday, January 24, 2022

Online via Microsoft Teams 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Recording of this meeting is available on Microsoft Sharepoint

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

Senators in Attendance: 70

Absent: Senators Barry (Neurological Sciences), Calkins (Family Medicine), Feurzeig (Music), Terrien (Medicine), Maruti (Psychiatry), Mierse (Art & Art History), Read/Wildin (ERTC), Strum (Community Development & Applied Economics)

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

- One senator is needed to serve as a member of ad-hoc review committee for a proposal to move the Physics Department from CAS to CEMS. The review of this proposal will follow the same procedures as the School of the Arts (SoA) proposal, and most of the members of the SoA ad-hoc review committee have agreed to continue to serve for the Physics Department review. This work will entail 3 or 4 meetings over the next month. Senators interested in serving should contact Thomas.Borchert@uvm.edu.
- Materials presented during the Enrollment Management Update are not for public consumption and are not posted with the meeting materials. Email Faculty.Senate@uvm.edu to receive a copy of the materials presented.
- Senators are asked to encourage their departments and units to complete the Campus Climate Survey, which will be distributed soon.

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

- Minutes of the December 2021 Faculty Senate Meeting

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.

Vote: 57 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. **The motion carried.**

3. Nominations for Member at-Large to the Faculty Senate Executive Council – Thomas

Borchert reminded Senators that a call for nominations was distributed seeking nominations for one member at large to the Executive Council to complete the final semester of the 2-year term

being vacated by Kyle Ikeda. The at-large member term will begin immediately and end on June 30, 2022. Elected Faculty Senators are eligible to serve, and self-nominations are encouraged. Two nominations have been received. Senator Sharon Cote (Communication Sciences and Disorders) and Senator Matthew White (Physics) have accepted nominations. An electronic ballot will be sent to voting members of the Senate. The ballot will be open for one-week.

4. 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:

Agriculture and Life Sciences (76)
Arts and Sciences (121)
Education and Social Services (23)
Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (51)
Graduate College (121)
Grossman School of Business (29)
Honors College (8)
Nursing and Health Sciences (8)
Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources (23)

Vote: 61 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. The motion carried.

5. Resolutions in Memoriam:

- Christopher Landry, John N. Pomeroy Professor of Chemistry, presented a Resolution in Memoriam for **Charles Hackett Bushweller**, Emeriti Professor of Chemistry. The resolution is attached to these minutes.

Motion: Christopher Landry moved to inscribe the Resolution in Memoriam for Charles Bushweller in the minutes of the Faculty Senate and to have a copy sent to his family.

Vote: 60 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. The motion carried.

- David Massell, Professor of History, presented a Resolution in Memoriam for **William Metcalfe**, Emeriti Professor of History. The resolution is attached to these minutes.

Motion: David Massell moved to inscribe the Resolution in Memoriam for William Metcalfe in the minutes of the Faculty Senate and to have a copy sent to his family.

Vote: 59 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. The motion carried.

6. School of the Arts Proposal – Thomas Borchert provided an overview of the process established for Senate review of proposals for administrative reorganization. A Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Review Committee was charged to review the proposal for a School of the Arts in the College of Arts and Sciences. The proposal was circulated for a two-week public comment period. After reviewing the proposal, the public comments, and meeting with the deans and chairs involved in the proposal, the Ad Hoc Review Committee produced a report and recommendation. The report from the Ad-hoc Committee of the Faculty Senate is attached to these minutes. Stephen Everse, Chair of the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Review

Committee, reported that the committee reviewed the proposal and supporting documents, the 11 public comments received, held meetings with Dean Falls & Associate Dean Di Dio and the Chairs of Art & Art History, Music, and Theatre and Dance. At the conclusion of the review process the ad hoc committee voted to recommend that the SoA be implemented with the following condition:

Appropriate safeguards are in place to protect faculty, lecturers, and staff so that their positions, rank and tenure status are preserved prior to dissolving their departments. This implies that a Director of the SoA must be appointed before movement of faculty and staff begins.

Thomas Borchert opened the floor for discussion. Discussion topics and questions received from the floor included:

- Concern about Senate representation. Thomas Borchert stated that representation for the coming year will not change and reminded senators that a resolution for reconsideration of the allocation of Senate representation was passed by the Senate in December 2021. The Senate Executive Council will consider the processes by which faculty representation is determined and allotted within the Senate and bring a report to the full Senate no later than the October 2022 meeting.
- Questions were raised about the need for the recommended safeguards. Stephen Everse responded that the committee wanted to emphasize the importance of having a Director in place because the Director will be responsible for faculty evaluations, all RPT issues, and eventual staff changes. Dean Falls confirmed that the plan is to submit new reappointment letters immediately after the proposal is approved by the BOT to state that effective July 1, 2022, appointments will move from the current department to the School of the Arts and there are no other changes in the conditions of employment.
- Administrative structure, appointment, and review of the Associate Director of the SoA and the programs were not a focus for the Ad Hoc Review Committee. Dean Falls stated that the selection of the Director of the SoA will follow the procedures for selecting department chairs, and one of the first charges of the director will be to talk with faculty about establishing additional governance structure and evaluation.
- The proposal is forward looking. Pamela Fraser, Chair of Art and Art History, stated that two immediate benefits of the SoA include an improved workload for chairs by separating the personnel piece, and the creation of interdisciplinary intermediate classes.
- Kelly Di Dio, Associate Dean CAS, stated that the SoA provides a structure that brings faculty strengths together.

Motion: To approve the School of the Arts Proposal as recommended by the Faculty Senate ad hoc Review Committee

Vote: 51 approved, 1 oppose, 7 abstain. **The motion carried.**

7. **Resolution in Support of the Library Budget.** Mary Cushman, Co-Chair of the Faculty Senate Research, Scholarship and the Creative Arts Committee (RSCA), presented a resolution passed by both the RSCA and the Student Affairs Committee (SAC) at their January meetings.

Resolution in support of Library Budget

Passed by the Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Committee and the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate at their January 2022 meetings

The Faculty Senate calls on the leadership of the University of Vermont to support and fund the UVM Libraries to an extent commensurate with our peer and aspirant universities and that supports growth to an R1 level because of the critical intellectual infrastructure that the libraries represent.

Discussion included clarification that the intent of the resolution is not to encourage the library to go back to Elsevier, nor specify the use of funding for any other product.

Vote: 58 approved, 0 opposed, 3 abstained. The motion carried.

8. **Update from Enrollment Management** – Jay Jacobs, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, presented this year's application pool and Enrollment Management strategic plan. The topics included the current applicant pool, demographic data including in-state and out-of-state applicant numbers. A full report of the data is available upon request to the Faculty Senate office. The Enrollment Management team has been working on a strategic enrollment plan. The plan is focused on four central tenants and each tenant has goals, strategies, and key performance indicators. The four tenants are pricing and affordability, marketing and communications, recruitment and admissions, and student success. The full strategic plan is available upon request to the Faculty Senate office.
9. **New Business**
 - Stephanie Seguino, Economics Department, reported that there is a national campaign to encourage Faculty Senates across the country to pass resolutions defending academic freedom to teach and research race, gender, justice and critical race theory. The template provided can be modified and includes both defending the appropriateness of teaching critical race theory and gender and racial justice, but also in support of K-12 schools that do and are under attack.
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XbYF3KscDXmJyckjPc0CZlocJxk1hJd7/edit>

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 PM