



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Monday, February 26, 2024

4:00 – 5:30 PM, Waterman Memorial Lounge

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate Vice President, Evan Eyler at 4:02 PM

Senators in Attendance: 55

Absent: Senators: Hoefft (Anesthesiology Rep1), Vacant (Anesthesiology Rep2), Kostell (Community Development & Applied Economics), Near (Computer Science), Ramirez-Harrington (Economics), Vacant (Education Rep2), Pulcini (Emergency Medicine), Schnell (English Rep 1), Adair (Environment & Natural Resources Rep1), Danks (Environment & Natural Resources Rep2), Bagrow (Mathematics & Statistics Rep2), Manacek (Nursing Rep 2), Kenny (Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Science), Gardner (Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Rep 1), Saia (Pediatrics Rep1), Beckage (Plant Biology), Hall (Psychiatry Rep 1, Dickerson (Psychiatry Rep2), Burt (Psychological Science Rep 2), Tsai (Radiology Rep1), Comerford (Social Work), vacant (Surgery Rep2)

1. Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks – Evan Eyler read remarks provided by Thomas Borchert:

- a) Senators are encouraged to submit nominations for Spring 2025 commencement speakers. Recommendations may be sent via email to Jonathan D'Amore, Chief of Staff to the President at Jonathan.Damore@uvm.edu
- b) The Aiken Lecture speaker is Zeynep Tufecki, whose talk is titled, "Lessons from the Decade of Social Media." The lecture is Wed March 6 in the Silver Pavilion of the Alumni house at 4:30. This is the first year in which there is an effort to have all of the major lectures at UVM – Burak, Aiken, the Janus Forum – share a theme so that they might be more impactful.
- c) The committee reviewing the decision to rescind use of University space for the Will Miller Social Justice speaker series' hosting of Muhammed El-Kurd is continuing its work. A report is anticipated for the March 25th Senate meeting.

2. Call for Nominations

A Call for nominations was announced at our January meeting and followed with an email announcement distributed to the full UVM faculty, and to all elected senators.

We are seeking nominations to fill the following:

- President-Elect of the Faculty Senate will serve for one-year beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, when they shall succeed automatically to the office of Faculty Senate President for the two-year term July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2027.
- 2 open seats for Member at Large to the Executive Council for the 2-year term beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2026.

No nominations were received, and the nomination window closed.

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

- Minutes of the January 2024 Faculty Senate Meeting
- Proposed addition to “Attendance Policy’ to address out-of-classroom expectations or requirements. (Student Affairs Committee)

Motion: Vice President Eycler stated that the consent agenda came to the Senate moved and seconded by the Executive Council. No requests were made to pull items from the consent agenda. The consent agenda passed by unanimous vote.

4. Resolution in Memoriam

- Terrence Bradshaw, Associate Professor, Department of Plant and Soil Science, presented a Resolution in Memoriam for **Norman Pellett**, Professor Emeritus of Plant and Soil Science. The resolution is attached to these minutes.
- Felicia Kornbluh, Professor, Department of History, presented a Resolution in Memoriam for **Frank Nicosia**, Professor Emeritus of History. The resolution is attached to these minutes.

Motion: Nicole Phelps moved to inscribe the Resolutions in Memoriam for Norman Pellett, and for Frank Nicosia in the minutes of the Faculty Senate and have a copy sent to the families. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

5. Reports that do not require a Senate vote:

- Curricular Affairs Committee: Report of actions voted by CAC including approval of 7 co-majors in the School of World Languages and Cultures in the College of Arts and Sciences; 2 APR reviews for Dietetics MS, and Public Health BS.
- Professional Standards Committee: Guidelines for Expedited Tenure Review Process for Incoming Administrators with Faculty Appointments
- Reports from Senate Representatives on the Board of Trustees

6. New Business – none at this time.

7. Faculty Senate Roundtable –

- The members of the Faculty Senate were given time to provide written feedback to be shared with the Board of Trustees as a part of President Garimella’s five-year comprehensive review. Areas for feedback included President Garimella’s strategic vision, his strengths and areas where growth is needed. Thomas Borchert will summarize

the written feedback and share it with Carol Cartwright, a former university president who is managing the review process.

- B. Evan Eyler introduced the topics of the roundtable discussion. The Executive Council is considering the ways that the Faculty Senate can best do the work that it is responsible for. Senators were encouraged to look at the descriptions of the senate authorities and the description of the senate committees in the Constitution and Bylaws, and discuss the following questions:

1. What are the most important tasks that you think the Faculty Senate committees do?
2. Is there work not being accomplished through Senate committees. What are some areas that you think the Senate should engage with?
3. In what ways would you suggest the senate expand its work in diversity, equity and inclusion or more visibly integrate this work into the committees or the broader Senate, and that do not overlap with work already done in the Provost's office?
4. Are there ways you would like to see the Faculty Senate acting more effectively/forcefully/actively on campus?

Highlights from the individual roundtable discussions were shared. Notes taken by the table facilitators will be submitted to Thomas Borchert and collated into a report to be shared with the Executive Council and the Senate.

8. Evan Eyler recognized Lutz Kalber for an item of new business. Lutz expressed concerns about the recently announced changes to travel booking requirements at UVM. As of 4/1/2024, it will be mandatory for all UVM airline tickets and rental car reservations to be purchased through the Collegiate Travel Planners (CTP) Travel System. Evan Eyler reported that the Faculty Senate Financial and Physical Planning Committee (FPPC) agenda for Monday, March 4th includes discussion of the CTP Travel System with Claire Burlingham, University Controller, and Erin Fitzgerald, Director of Disbursement.

Steve Gove moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:22 PM. The motion was seconded and carried without objection.



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FACULTY SENATE

Resolution in Memoriam
Norman E. Pellett
Professor Emeritus of Plant and Soil Science
1934-2023

Presented by Terence Bradshaw
Associate Professor
Department of Plant and Soil Science
February 26, 2024

The UVM Department of Plant and Soil Science is sad to report the passing on December 8, 2023 of a beloved colleague, mentor, and friend, Dr. Norman E. Pellett. Dr. Pellett was born in Atlantic, Iowa in 1934 and was raised on his family's fruit and vegetable farm, Pellett Gardens. After he received his B.S. in Horticulture from Iowa State College and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from University of Minnesota, he arrived at UVM in 1967 as Extension Ornamental Horticulturist and Assistant Professor. In this role, Dr. Pellett became a well-respected plantsman who was quickly known and respected among the nursery, landscape, and greenhouse industries of northern New England. In 1980 he shifted his focus to undergraduate teaching, teaching hundreds of students in his Plant Propagation, Woody Landscape Plants, Garden Flowers, Turf Grasses, and Home and Garden Horticulture courses. Dr. Pellett was affectionately known as 'Stormin' Norman' for the fast pace he took as he walked students through outdoor laboratories.

Throughout his career, Dr. Pellett maintained an active research program focused on cold hardiness of landscape plants. He served in leadership roles in the American Society for Horticultural Science and received the ASHS Alex Laurie Award in 1970 for the best research paper in Floriculture, Ornamental, and Landscape Horticulture, and he was awarded the UVM Joseph E. Carrigan Award in 1985 for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. In 2016, was awarded the Sinclair Cup Award, which is the highest award presented to retired CALS and Extension faculty recognizing professional advancement in their field/discipline of expertise and achieved special recognition, awards and/or honors which reflect a noteworthy and exemplary career.

Dr. Pellett retired from UVM in 1996, and remained active in the community, authoring four books: *History of the University of Vermont Horticulture Research Center*, *The Gardener's Quiz Book*, *The Pellett Gardens Story*, and *The Life of Frank Chapman Pellett*, and co-authored *Landscape Plants for Vermont* with his successor, PSS Associate Professor Dr. Mark Starrett. He remained active with the Friends of the UVM Horticulture Farm and served on the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Committee and the Rutter Tree Fund Committee. He is remembered by many for his unbounding kindness, his deep knowledge of plants, and his dedication to improving landscapes for the benefit of all.

I MOVE that this resolution in memoriam be inscribed in the Minutes of the Faculty Senate and that copies be sent to his family.

Resolution *in Memoriam*

Francis R. Nicosia
Professor Emeritus of History
Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Holocaust Studies

Presented by Felicia Kornbluh
Professor, Department of History
26 February 2024

The Department of History and Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont report the passing of friend and colleague Dr. Francis R. "Frank" Nicosia, Professor Emeritus of History and Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Holocaust Studies, on 21 November 2023.

A native of Philadelphia, Professor Nicosia earned academic degrees from Pennsylvania State University, Georgetown University, and McGill University, where he earned a Ph.D. in German and Middle Eastern History. After twenty-nine years on the faculty of Saint Michael's College, Professor Nicosia joined in 2008 the faculty of the University of Vermont, where he served as Professor of History and Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies until his retirement in 2018.

Over the course of his career, Professor Nicosia also held prestigious research appointments, including a Fulbright Fellowship at the Center for the Research on Antisemitism at the Technical University Berlin, a Fulbright Fellowship at the Humboldt University Berlin, and a Revson Fellowship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Professor Nicosia was an internationally recognized historian of the Holocaust, National Socialist policy toward the Middle East, Zionism, and antisemitism. His scholarly accomplishments include his monographs *The Third Reich and the Palestine Question*, published in 1985, *Zionism and Anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany*, published in 2008, and *Nazi Germany and the Arab World*, which appeared in 2015. Professor Nicosia was also editor or co-editor of nine books, five of which appeared in the series Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust.

An energetic and beloved teacher as well as an enthusiastic servant of the profession, Professor Nicosia was recognized in 2014 with the Holocaust Educational Foundation's Distinguished Achievement Award in Holocaust Studies.

His colleagues and friends will remember him fondly as an outstanding scholar, gifted teacher, giving mentor, and generous spirit.

I MOVE that this resolution *in memoriam* be inscribed in the Minutes of the Faculty Senate and that copies be sent to his family.