



The University of Vermont  
FACULTY SENATE

**Minutes**

Monday, February 27, 2023

On Microsoft Teams 4:00 – 5:30 PM

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The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President, Thomas Borchert at 4:00 PM

**Senators in Attendance: 66**

**Absent:** Senators Vacant (Anesthesiology Rep2), VanKeuren (Anthropology), Ikeda (Asian Languages & Literatures), Vacant (Chemistry), Bailly (Classics), Conroy (Counseling, Human Development & Family Science), Reed (ERTC), Calkins (Family Medicine Rep2), Julianelle (Mathematics & Statistics Rep1), Merrill (Mathematics & Statistics Rep2), Terrien (Medicine Rep1), Spees (Medicine Rep 2), Saia (Pediatrics Rep1), Dickerson (Psychiatry Rep2), Lach (Radiology Rep1), Clark (Religion), Delaney/Prue (SAC)

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

- The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) will be distributed to 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. This survey is designed to gain information about the undergraduate experience. The data will be used by the university as a whole and achieving participation of 67% or greater will increase the likelihood of receiving department level data. The survey will be open through May 14<sup>th</sup>. Alex Yin provided a link to the NSSE Survey:  
[https://nsse-survey.org/test/main/1/edit.cfm?packaged=true&sectionList=main,demo\\_us,closing,test](https://nsse-survey.org/test/main/1/edit.cfm?packaged=true&sectionList=main,demo_us,closing,test)

**2. Call for nominations**

On February 17, a call for nominations for Vice President of the Faculty Senate was distributed to the full UVM faculty. A call for nominations was also distributed to elected senators for 3 open seats for member at large to the Executive Council. Thomas Borchert announced the following nominations received:

Candidates Nominated for Vice President

- Evan Eyler, LCOM (accepted)
- Kenneth Allen, CNHS (declined)

Candidates Nominated for Member at large – 2 open seats for 2-year term

- Tony Julianelle, Mathematics & Statistics, CEMS (accepted)
- Kenneth Allen, CNHS (accepted)

Candidates Nominated for Member at large – 1-year term

- none received to date

President Borchert called for additional nominations from the floor of the Senate. No additional nominations were received. Nominations will continue to be accepted by email ([faculty.senate@uvm.edu](mailto:faculty.senate@uvm.edu)) and [webform](#) through 6:00 PM on Monday, March 6. Electronic ballots will be distributed via email on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. The ballots will be open for 1-week, and the polls close at noon on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. In the case of an uncontested election, for which there is only one nominee, the nominee will be declared elected by acclamation.

- 3. Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the January 2023 Faculty Senate meeting were approved as written.

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

- 4. Roundtable Discussion: Future goals and initiatives and ongoing challenges**

Thomas Borchert stated the following goals for the roundtable discussion:

The round-table discussion seeks to provide senators with the opportunity to articulate the goals that they would like to see the University and the Faculty Senate pursue, and to talk about ongoing concerns. There are a few reasons for this:

First, part of the FPPC charge is to bring the views of the faculty regarding educational priorities to the administration (“The committee shall assume responsibility for informing the administration of educational priorities and needs and see that these are considered in all planning.” CBL 7.1.5.5).

Second, among the recommendations in the Academic Reorganization Committee Report that the Senate accepted in May 2022, was the recommendation to create a committee comprised of faculty and administrators whose work would be to engage in strategic planning.

Third, the 2019 NECHE reaccreditation report also calls for faculty participation in such planning. The goal of this roundtable is to provide the FS Executive Council with a better understanding of the concerns and interests of the faculty, across the campus, in order to engage in this kind of planning.

Senators were asked to discuss several questions having to do with future initiatives and ongoing concerns that pertain to the fulfillment of the University mission. The Executive Council will summarize the feedback from this discussion and report it back to the Senate in April or May, as well as to deliver it to the FPPC, and to the administration.

All eligible faculty, as defined by the Faculty Senate bylaws, were welcome to participate in the roundtable discussion. The faculty were divided into breakout rooms to consider the following questions:

- 1) What are the academic initiatives that you would like to see the administration pursue, or the Faculty Senate pursue or advocate for?
- 2) The President and Provost have said that they would like to grow the graduate program at UVM – what are some areas that you would like to see us expanding our graduate education?
- 3) What are your impressions/view on pandemic recovery? Are there areas that you would advise the administration to change policy or increase investment?

4) How has this academic year influence your views on these issues? What has gone well and what are you anxious about?

**5. Report out of Discussions** – Highlights from the breakout room discussions were shared. Notes from the individual breakout room discussions should be submitted to the Faculty Senate office ([faculty.senate@uvm.edu](mailto:faculty.senate@uvm.edu)). The notes will be collated into a report to be shared with both the Senate and the administration.

**6. New Business**

- Susan Comerford expressed the desire for a forum that would include the broader faculty in discussion of these goals.

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM.