



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

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Minutes

Monday, February 28, 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 Calkins (Family Medicine), Chiang (Grossman School of Business), Dickerson (Psychiatry), Maruti (Psychiatry), Mierse (Art & Art History), Read (ERTC chair), Saia (Pediatrics), Terrien (Medicine), Tharp (Anesthesiology), Weinstein (Family Medicine)

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

- President Borchert moved that the order of agenda items 5 (Art and Science Report) & 6 (New Business) be reversed. No objections were raised, and the agenda was changed.

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

- Minutes of the January 2022 Faculty Senate Meeting
- Curricular Affairs: New PhD Transdisciplinary Leadership and Creativity for Sustainability (GRAD/RSENR)

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. Terrence Delaney (Co-Chair, SAC) requested to pull the January 2022 minutes. A vote was called on the remaining item on the Consent Agenda: New PhD Transdisciplinary Leadership and Creativity for Sustainability (GRAD/RSENR).

Vote: 55 approved, 1 opposed, 3 abstained. The motion carried.

Discussion on the January 2022 minutes. Two corrections were requested. Terrence Delaney (Co-Chair, SAC) requested that Section 5 Resolutions in Memoriam be corrected to change Emeriti to Emeritus. Stephanie Seguino (Economics) requested that Section 9 New Business reflect her request that the Faculty Senate take up the issue of defending academic freedom to teach and research race, gender, justice, and critical race theory and consider a motion to adopt a similar resolution.

Motion: Mary Cushman moved to correct the January 2022 minutes A vote was called to approve the January 2022 minutes as corrected.

Vote: 56 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. The motion carried.

3. Reports that do not require a vote – Thomas Borchert called for comments or questions on the two reports presented: A) CAC APR report on Translational and Clinical Science, and B) The closing of the Geology Department at end of year. No comments or questions were received.

4. Composition of the UVM Board of Trustees – Thomas Borchert introduced discussion on Senate S248, a bill currently in front of the Vermont Legislature concerning the composition of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of both the Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont. The UVM BOT composition has not been substantially changed since the 1950s, and includes three groups: self-perpetuating members, legislative members, and governor appointees. The bill S248 would add faculty members, staff members and one additional student to the BOT. If the bill is voted to go out of committee, it would cross-over to the House where it could be considered. Thomas Borchert stated that the Faculty Senate has an interest in this bill because the Constitution and Bylaws of the Faculty Senate of UVM establishes the right to review, recommend and participate in the formulation of policy on institutional priorities. The floor was opened for discussion. Susan Comerford (CESS) clarified that S248 addresses both UVM and the Vermont State Colleges in the same bill, but it is not a joint board. Mary Cushman (Co-Chair, RSCA) stated that she worked on an effort to increase diversity on the UVM BOT, and the addition of faculty, staff and students would increase diversity and better articulate the needs of the university. Concerns were expressed about the definition of staff in the bill, and that the bill states that UVM employed trustees need to be in the union, which would exclude faculty from the Larner College of Medicine. Susan Comerford presented the following resolution:

Whereas the University of Vermont is governed by a Board of Trustees whose composition is established by the legislature of the State of Vermont; and
Whereas the Senate of the State of Vermont is currently considering a bill, S.248, that is considering changes to the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont; and
Whereas the composition of the Board of Trustees of UVM has not been changed since the 1950s; and
Whereas the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont has the authority to "review, recommend and participate in the formulation of policy" (CBL 1.b) matters related to the management and organization of the University; and
Whereas the Faculty Senate of UVM has just begun to consider S.248, while the Senate/House crossover period is just beginning,
Therefore, be it resolved that; The Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont is supportive of S.248 moving out of committee and will continue its consideration of this bill over the course of the Spring 2022 Semester.

A quorum count was conducted and verified that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the voting members were in attendance to conduct a vote on this unwarned motion.

Vote: 55 approved, 1 opposed, 2 abstained. The motion carried.

5. New Business:

- J. Dickinson, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success, announced that a Teach-in on the events in Ukraine will be held on Teams this evening. The event is sponsored by the Honors College and will be presented by faculty who specialized in Ukraine, Russia, and the larger former Soviet sphere. Faculty members of the

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Rubenstein School, Department of Anthropology, Department of Political Science and Department of German and Russian will be speaking briefly and then taking questions.

6. **Art and Science Report “Institutional Strategy Study”** – Thomas Borchert provided an overview of the Art and Science report on perceptions of UVM among the populations of students who inquire into UVM, apply, and matriculate. The report takes this information and makes some strategic suggestions that UVM might take. The Art and Science report has been referenced during Faculty Senate discussions regarding recommendations from the Academic Reorganization Working Group. Discussion prior to moving to breakout rooms included methodology used for the report, and UVM’s commitment to making some of the recommendations manifest. Prior to entering breakout rooms for discussion, Thomas Borchert asked administrators to leave the meeting, and provided instructions for faculty entering the breakout rooms to discuss the following three questions:
1. What are at least 2 points that you take from the report that you would like to see UVM implement, and how? (10 min)
 2. Are there programs or activities that UVM is doing that you think we should expand as a result of this report? (5 min)
 3. What is at least one concern that you have and how would you like to see these addressed? (5 min)

Each breakout room was asked to assign a notetaker, and email a copy of the group responses to the questions to the Senate office (faculty.senate@uvm.edu) and to Tom Borchert (thomas.borchert@uvm.edu). President Borchert will compile the responses into a report to share with both the Senate and the Provost.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 PM