



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Monday, March 25, 2024

4:00 – 5:30 PM, on Microsoft Teams

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

Senators in Attendance: 70

Absent: Senators: Vacant (Anesthesiology Rep2), Vacant (Education Rep2), Bagrow (Mathematics & Statistics Rep2), Saia (Pediatrics Rep1), Tsai (Radiology Rep1), McDowell (School of the Arts Rep1), vacant (Surgery Rep2)

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

- a) The feedback provided by senators at the February meeting has been forwarded to Dr. Carol Cartwright who is managing President Garimella's 5-year comprehensive review on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Points of feedback from senators included 1) a lack of knowledge/confusion regarding the President's Strategic initiatives, or Amplifying Our Impact, and those expressing awareness stated it was about making UVM R1; 2) an appreciation of President Garimella's handling of the pandemic and his support for research; 3) a desire for the President to communicate more clearly with the faculty, be more visible on campus, and listen more to the faculty. Thomas Borchert stated that he will invite President Garimella to speak to the Senate in the future.
- b) The February Senate meeting included a roundtable discussion asking for feedback about the work of the Senate and how to increase knowledge about the work of the committees. The Executive Council is reviewing this feedback.
- c) There will be an update on the Catamount Core at the April Senate meeting. The Catamount Core Curriculum Committee is currently a joint committee of the Provost's Office and the Senate. The joint committee was intended to be temporary, and a group has been formed to discuss the possible next steps and options for a permanent committee.
- d) To increase senate understanding of the concerns of the UVM Board of Trustees, Thomas Borchert will be in regular communication with the Board's Executive Committee about matters on campus. Two matters of interest and concern are housing and the demographic cliff. Ron Lumbrá, Chair of the Board of Trustees, has been invited to the May Senate meeting.

- e) 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 working on a report and anticipates sharing the report at the April Senate meeting.
- f) Evan Siegel, SGA Academic Affairs Committee member, announced that on April 28th, UVM will be partnering with 18 non-profit organizations for "Together Vermont", a day of service, building community, and making change in Burlington. All members of the UVM community are encouraged to volunteer. The event will occur throughout the day and end with a community mixer party. Save the date, and sign up to volunteer at go.uvm.edu/togethervermont

2. Election Update

A Call for nominations will be announced and distributed by email in April.

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.

Reach out to Thomas Borchert with questions about this service opportunity.

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

- a. Minutes of the February 2024 Faculty Senate Meeting
- b. Curricular Affairs
 - i. New CGS in Semiconductor Engineering & Physics
 - ii. New mCGS in Scientific Computing

Motion: Thomas Borchert 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.

Vote: 59 approve, 0 oppose, 2 abstain. The motion carried.

4. Meeting Modality for AY 2024-25 – Thomas Borchert reported that in February, the Executive Council discussed the meeting modality of Senate meetings for the 2024-2025 academic year. Recognizing that in-person meetings and remote meetings both have benefits and costs, and discussing various options, the Executive Council decided to continue the pattern of this AY and hold two in-person meetings and three remote meetings each semester for AY 2024-25. The Senate meetings will be held on the 4th Monday of each month, except for December and April when they will be held on the 3rd Monday. The May meeting is held on the Thursday prior to Commencement. The dates are:

- August 26 – in person
- September 23 – Teams
- October 28 – in person
- November 25 - Teams
- December 16 - Teams
- January 27 - Teams
- February 28 – in person
- March 24 - Teams
- April 21 - Teams
- Thursday, May 15 – in Person

5. Reports that do not require a Senate vote:

- a) Curricular Affairs Committee: Report of actions voted by CAC including approval of revisions to M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction and to M.Ed. in Interdisciplinary Studies, New Co-majors in Mathematics and in Business Administration, and an APR in Nutrition & Food Science.
- b) Financial & Physical Planning Committee: Report on CTP discussion.
- c) Student Affairs Committee: Courses taken by High School students who matriculate at UVM.

Discussion included concerns about the use of CTP for international travel, the desire for additional clarity on when travel authorization is required, and a request to push back the April deadline to allow for more training and for CTP to respond to concerns. Provost Prelock will talk with Erin Fitzgerald and Claire Burlingham about the deadline.

6. Planetary Health Initiative – Provost Prelock presented an overview of the Proposal for Planetary Health. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes, and the proposal is available on the Senate SharePoint site ([Proposal for Planetary Health](#), login required from your NetID@uvm.edu). What is Planetary Health at UVM? Human well-being is inextricably linked with the health of the environment. The UVM Planetary Health Initiative explores these connections and inspires action so that both people and planet can thrive. The Planetary Health proposal is an initiative designed to reframe and enhance the collective work being done across campus in health and the environment. It will coordinate and build on the interdisciplinary perspectives that affect research, education, policy, outreach, and clinical practices. Following the presentation, senators participated in breakout discussion. The feedback collected will be shared with the Provost.

7. New Business – none at this time.

8. The meeting adjourned at 5:32 PM

Planetary Health at UVM

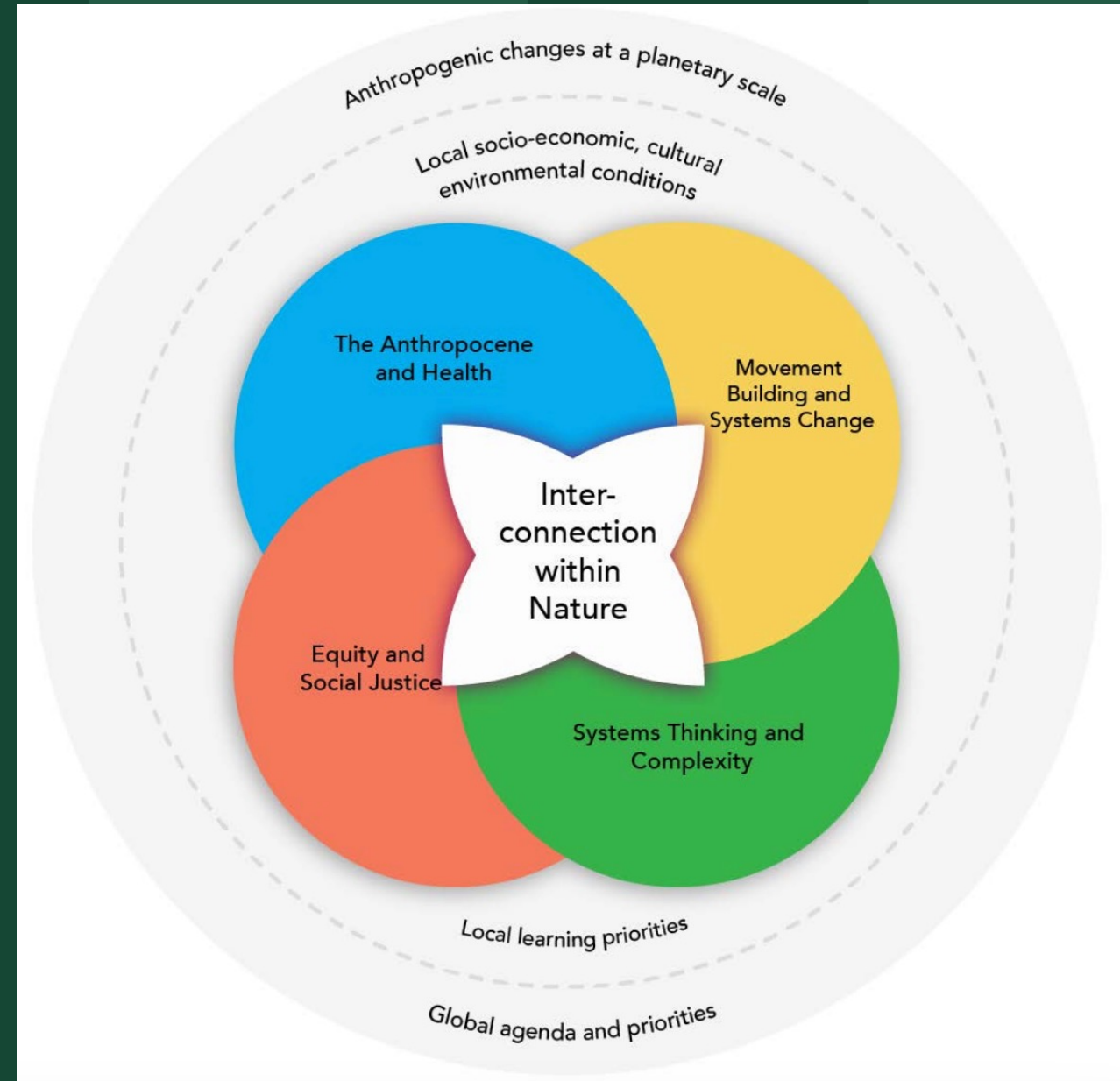
Patricia A. Prelock, Ph.D.,
Provost & Senior Vice President



Planetary health is . . .

the understanding that human health and human civilization depend on flourishing natural systems and the wise stewardship of those natural systems. ¹

Safeguarding human health in the Anthropocene epoch: Report of The Rockefeller Foundation– Lancet Commission on planetary health. *The Lancet (British Edition)*, 386(10007), 1973-2028 (2015).



What is Planetary Health at UVM?

Human well-being is inextricably linked with the health of the environment. The UVM Planetary Health Initiative explores these connections and inspires action so that both people and planet can thrive.



Who are we:

*For individuals committed to a **thriving future for people and planet**, UVM is the leading university where **discovery, creativity, community, and action** coalesce to secure a **healthier, greener tomorrow.***

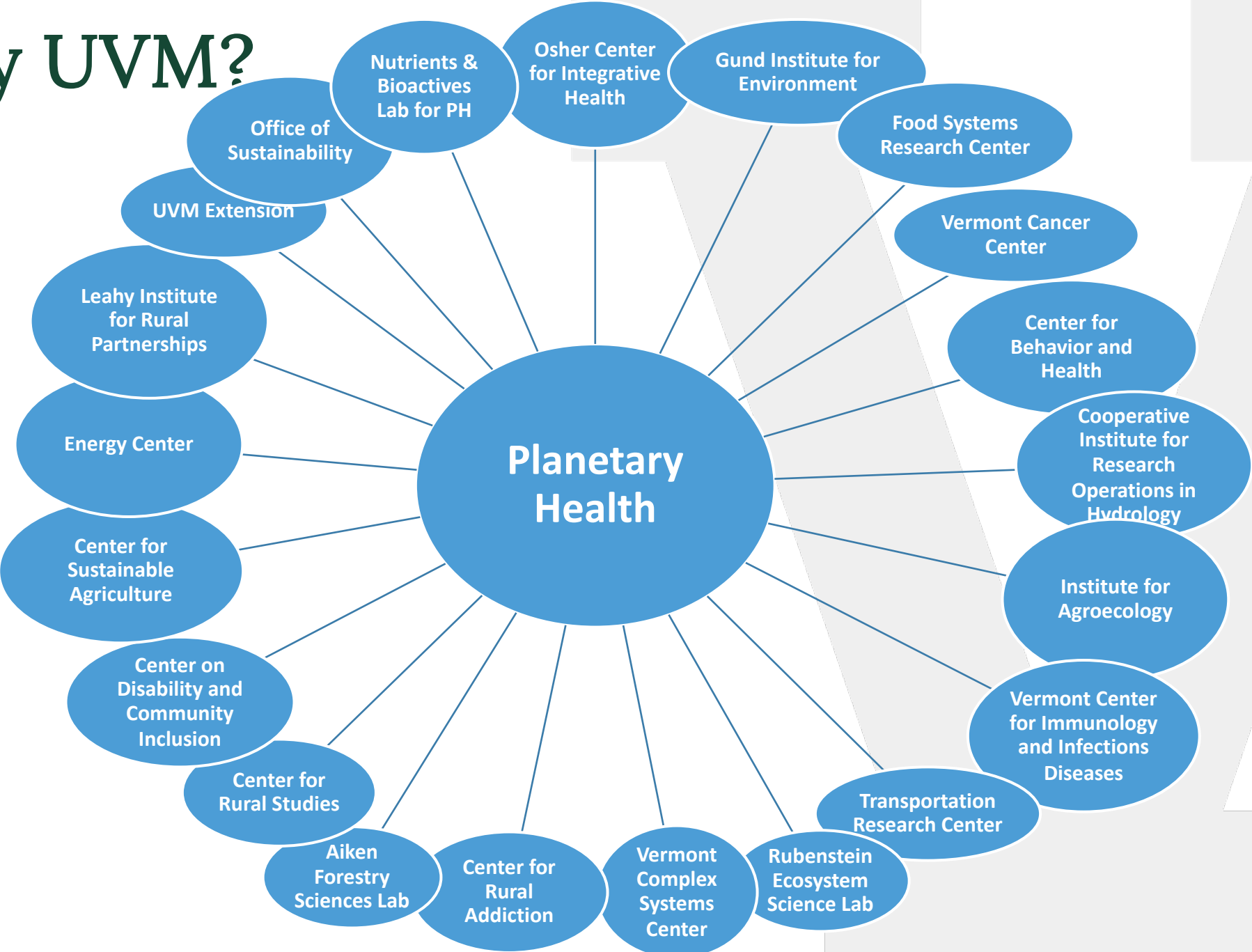
How did this come about?

Recognized the collective work we are doing across campus in health & the environment

Heard from our scholars about the value of pursuing a thematic research agenda that sets us apart

Capitalized on the PH educational principles aligned with our curriculum

Why UVM?



Key Themes from Faculty, Staff & Student Meetings

- Creates a strategy for "punching up" and focusing on a specific theme for research & its global impact
- Values interdisciplinarity & facilitates collaboration
- Fits with the environmental and social responsibility that is so characteristic of Vermont
- Facilitates more effective use of expertise and resources across campus
- Increases our ability to compete for joint grant funding and attracting donors.

12 Cross Cutting Principles of PH



Figure 1. Cross-cutting principles for Planetary Health Education. Modified from Stone et al. 2018.

Why this, why now & why not something else?

We can take a leadership role in driving meaningful change in PH.

PHI aligns with the university's existing strengths, values, & identity; curriculum is steeped in environmental, health & social justice.

Potential to address Vermont's rural context and integrating community perspectives in research and education.

Opportunity to address sustainability issues, promote environmental justice, & advance social & cultural prosperity.

Inclusive of various stakeholders & disciplines & is accessible and relatable to a wide range of people.

Examples of Current Planetary Health Activities

Research Funding & Related Activities

- Current funding PHI
- federal grant on health & the environment
- *Journal of Planetary Health*
- Jeffords grant funding
- Opportunity, spousal & Henderson hires
- Osher Center Director of PH

Educational Efforts

- UVM GO
- CELO courses
- PLHCOL course on PH
- SoA curriculum art & health
- MEPN curriculum on IHWC & PH
- Institute/Center lectures on PH

Policy & Outreach Activities

- Planetary Health Summit
- Campus Comprehensive Sustainability Plan
- Adapting the Doughnut Economics model
- Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships grants
- Comprehensive Inclusive Excellence Action Plan

Challenges & Opportunities

- Implementing a large-scale initiative like planetary health requires overcoming cultural barriers, engaging faculty, staff and students, and securing funding
- Defining the desired outcomes, measuring our progress toward those outcomes, identifying the success criteria for the initiative, & evaluating the impact of the initiative over time is critical to our success.

Next Steps

Leaders, PH researchers participate in a lecture with Dr. Tom Gillespie

April 19,
2024

April 22,
2024
Campus community invited to a presentation on PH at UVM & Participate in an Activity using a framework for considering engagement

Planetary Health Summit

October 1
6 - 17,
2024

Ongoing

Communication about funding, activities, educational & research opportunities & outcome development