



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Monday, March 27, 2023

On Microsoft Teams 4:00 – 5:30 PM

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

Senators in Attendance: 72

Absent: Senators Vacant (Anesthesiology Rep2), Vacant (Chemistry), Conroy (Counseling, Human Development & Family Science), Merrill (Mathematics & Statistics Rep2), Terrien (Medicine Rep1), Saia (Pediatrics Rep1), Lach (Radiology Rep1), Clark (Religion)

1. Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks – Thomas Borchert stated that he has shared the notes gathered from the February roundtable discussion with the Executive Council. A memo summarizing the topics of concern will be drafted and brought to the Faculty Senate for review before it is forwarded to the President and Provost.

2. Election Results and Call for Nominations for Member at Large

Thomas Borchert reported the election results and expressed congratulations to:

- Evan Eyler, Professor of Psychiatry in the Larner College of Medicine has been re-elected to serve a second 2-year term as Faculty Senate Vice President.
- Anthony Julianelle and Kenneth Allen have been elected to serve as at-large member to the Faculty Senate Executive Council for the 2-year term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2025.

All three candidates stood unopposed for election. The formal ballot was waived, and the three candidates have been elected by acclamation.

A special election will be held in April for one additional seat on the Executive Council for a one-year term to complete the term currently held by Cathy Paris upon her retirement.

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

- A. Minutes of the February 2023 Faculty Senate meeting
- B. New Undergraduate Certificate in Semiconductor Engineering and Physics (CEMS)

Motion: President 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: 62 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. **The motion carried**

4. Resolutions in Memoriam

- A. Thomas Noordewier, Professor, Grossman School of Business, presented a Resolution in Memoriam for **Richard G. Brandenburg**, Faculty Emeritus and Dean of the School of Business Administration. The resolution is attached to these minutes.
Motion: Thomas Noordewier moved to inscribe the Resolution in Memoriam for Richard G. Brandenburg in the minutes of the Faculty Senate and have a copy sent to his family.
Vote: 61 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. **The motion carried.**
- B. Nicole Phelps, Associate Professor, Department of History in the College of Arts and Sciences, presented a Resolution in Memoriam for **Neil R. Stout**, Professor Emeritus of History. The resolution is attached to these minutes.
Motion: Nicole Phelps moved to inscribe the Resolution in Memoriam for Neil R. Stout in the minutes of the Faculty Senate and have a copy sent to his family.
Vote: 61 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. **The motion carried.**

5. Reports that do not require a Senate vote:

- A. The Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) provided a report of actions taken by the CAC that do not require a Senate vote. The CAC approved a prefix change for RSENR, changing the NR prefix to SEP. Three APR reports were also approved for Gender Sexuality and Women's Studies, Pharmacology and a combined report for Programs of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.
- B. The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) provided a memo from the Center for Student Conduct highlighting the language added to the Code of Academic Integrity to address the inappropriate use of artificial intelligence tools.
- C. The SAC provided a memo highlighting updated language to the Incomplete policy to offer better guidance. – this is for the undergraduate incomplete policy – the graduate policy will be reviewed by the graduate college executive committee.

6. Student-Athlete Success and Athletic Facility Update – John Crock, Faculty Athletics Representative and Jeff Schulman, Director of Athletics provided a report on student athlete success and an update on the athletic facility. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes. Director Schulman emphasized that UVM is unique in that the athletic program is not just the Division One athletic program, but also includes campus recreation, intramurals, and general student fitness. In addition to the program scope, the presentation included conference affiliations, distribution of student-athletes by schools and colleges, the Fall 2022 academic report and GPA 5-year trends, student-athlete extracurricular time commitments, departmental and student-athlete initiatives, and highlights of competitive successes of UVM teams. Director Schulman shared an update on the athletic facility project, which was approved by the Board of Trustees (BOT) in May 2019, disrupted by COVID related issues in March of 2020, and then in February of 2021 the BOT approved a re-sequenced phase of work that prioritized the recreation and wellness and health side of the project. That work was completed in early Fall 2022. The space dedicated to student recreation and fitness includes a group fitness hub featuring dance classes, yoga and spin, a new multi-use activity court for intramurals and informal recreation, and a bouldering wall.

The BOT appointed a working group to study the project and how we can work toward ultimately achieving the goals that were originally set. In February, the working group reported to the BOT with two major findings: 1) the goals of the project outlined in the beginning are still very relevant, and 2) the best way to achieve those goals remains completing the project as planned and designed. About \$67 million has been spent to date and another \$87 million is needed to complete the project as designed and planned. The BOT conveyed a very serious charge to the administration, the Athletics Director and the UVM Foundation to identify non-debt resources to bridge the gap in funding the project. Director Schulman intends to report to the BOT in May regarding the funding strategies. The floor was open for questions. Discussion included statements regarding supports provided to student-athletes; NCAA standards regarding progress towards degree completion; questions regarding NCAA's culture and Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) rules and how UVM is competing with larger schools; clarification that over 1000 students are involved in highly competitive intercollegiate club sports (such as rowing, ultimate and rugby) which are administered through the Student Government Association but use the athletics facilities; importance of summer classes and online classes to spread out academic work and balance time commitments; and the challenge of incorporating high impact academic practices such as internships and study abroad. University Athletics is interested in collaborating with faculty to structure creative approaches to internships, research, or study abroad programs that can work within athletic schedule.

- 7. Admissions Report** – Jay Jacobs, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management spoke to the following five questions provided by President Borchert in advance of this meeting:
- 1) Report on applications and admissions and how they track over the last few years.* VP Jacobs stated that reports are shared with Deans, and Student Services teams. At this time, potential enrollment for Fall '23 for first time, first year students is the second largest volume of applicants in university history behind last year by 6%. The pool is high quality (HS GPA & Standardized test scores) and diverse in all categories (race, ethnicity, geographic, gender). Admission offers were sent March 10th and fewer seats were offered than in the past. The admission rate is currently just under 59%. Admitted student pool for Vermonters increased by a point, the number of BIPOC students increased by a point and the number of male students increased by 3 points. International admits is up slightly and the number of admits from New England is flat. The Early Decision admission program implemented this year has resulted in higher yield rates from last year. Transfer student applications are up slightly from last year, and because degree audits are now being given to admitted transfer students, the yield rate is also increasing.
 - 2) What is the impact of the tuition freeze on applicants to UVM?* It is hard to isolate one variable in the many factors in undergraduate admissions. The tuition freeze is at the top of conversations with families, supporters, and school counselors, as a concrete example of the institution committing to access and affordability. It is helping with marketing efforts for Vermonters, especially outside of Chittenden County.
 - 3) Talk about the balance of merit scholarships and need-based aid.* The projection for merit scholarships is down from about \$42 million last year to \$35 million this year. The projection for need-based aid is up from about \$8.5 million last year to about \$10 million

this year. 76% of all institutional money is going to the merit side, and 24% to the need-based side.

4) *What is the impact of test optional policy?* The applicant pool increased in diversity. Admissions is working with the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee (SAC) and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) to understand the impacts of test optional on how a student performs once on campus. There is little to no impact on retention, or GPAs, and there might be slight differences by school or college, but the absence of test scores does not help predict whether a student will perform better or worse, or stay longer or not.

5) *Is UVM preparing for the anticipated Supreme Court decision (UNC vs SFA and Harvard vs SFA)?* We have started looking to determine if there are proxies for race and ethnicity in the application or other data that we have on students. Two areas being considered are actively seeking to expand the partnership model with high schools in target areas such as New York City, Philadelphia, and Chicago, and utilizing identity centered optional essays in the application.

Questions were received from the floor of the Senate and topics included: efforts to increase enrollment of undergraduate international students from the current 1% to 5% by 2027; clarification that the cited \$34 million in merit aid was for the incoming class, and the projection for the incoming class in 2023 is \$6 million less in merit aid than for the incoming class in 2022, and ideally continuing the shift for 60% in need-based aid versus 70% in merit-based aid; UVM's value proposition is strengthening and the incoming class will reflect that; and housing difficulties in Chittenden County are not a prominent topic amongst admitted undergraduate students, but current students are talking about it.

8. New Business – none at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.