



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Monday, September 19, 2022

On Microsoft Teams 4:00 – 5:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President, Thomas Borchert at 4:01 PM

Senators in Attendance: 70

Absent: Senators Vacant (Anesthesiology Rep2), Schneebeli (Chemistry), Ramirez-Harrington (Economics), DeMink-Carthew (Education Rep2), Calkins (Family Medicine Rep2), Terrien (Medicine Rep1), Knakal (Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation), Saia (Pediatrics Rep1), White (Physics), Lach (Radiology Rep1)

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

- Although Faculty Senate meetings are generally held on the 4th Monday of the month, the September meeting was moved to the 3rd Monday to honor the Jewish high holiday, Rosh Hashanah.
- The Department of Education is investigating UVM's handling of complaints about antisemitic acts on campus or adjacent to campus. President Garimella's response clearly laid out the institution's position, and record, and recognized the ongoing presence of antisemitism in the US and in our community. It is our responsibility to work together to develop tools to help recognize harms and mitigate them, while also providing space for free inquiry and discussion. The faculty and administration must work together. The work of DEI at UVM is all our responsibility. It should not be siloed, but rather interwoven into all our work.

2. Consent Agenda - The following item was presented as a consent agenda:

- Minutes of the August 2022 Faculty Senate Meeting
- New PhD Social emotional Health and Inclusive Education, CESS
- No-Contest Termination of B.S. Athletic Training, CNHS

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

3. Conferral of Degrees

It was moved, seconded, and voted that the following numbers of graduates be recommended by the Senate to the President for the awarding of the appropriate degrees

or certificates as authorized by the Board of Trustees. Individual names of the graduates are recorded with the Minutes of this meeting in the permanent Senate records.

Degrees:

Agriculture and Life Sciences (3)

Arts and Sciences (6)

Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (1)

Grossman School of Business (1)

Vote: 58 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. The motion carried

- 4. Catamount Core Curriculum Changes** – Thomas Borchert reminded the Senate that the proposed changes were presented by Pablo Bose at the August Senate meeting.

Motion: Nicole Phelps moved to approve the proposed changes to the Catamount Core Curriculum as described in the materials posted with the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded. Discussion included a statement by Pablo Bose that the eight proposed changes allow the existing and evolving curriculum to better align with the Catamount Core and consider variations within disciplines, the needs of accredited programs and other needs as articulated by diverse members of our campus community including students, colleges, staff and faculty. The goal is to provide the Faculty Senate with a clear policy document for the General Education curriculum prior to the fall of 2023. Discussion topics included clarification regarding advanced levels in the criteria for requirements in the Humanities, and in Oral Communication.

Vote: 61 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. The motion carried

- 5. Proposal to Establish the Osher Center for Integrative Health** – Thomas Borchert stated that the following materials regarding this proposal were distributed with the meeting agenda: the proposal, revised budget, FAQ document, and a memo from the Faculty Senate Executive Council recommending that the Senate approve the proposal to establish the Osher Center for Integrative Health. The floor was opened for questions and comments. Discussion included:

- assurance that the Osher Center will welcome proposals for collaboration with other units
- space allocation for the Osher Center
- clarification regarding funding after the first 3-years
- centers focused on research report to the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the Osher Center and other centers that have educational, clinical and research and community programming report to the Provost's Office
- clarification that indirect costs will follow the same framework that is used by grant programs, and flow back to the investigator's department

Motion: Terrence Delaney moved to approve the proposal to establish the Osher Center for Integrative Health at UVM. The motion was seconded.

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

Vote: 58 approved, 0 opposed, 2 abstained. The motion carried

6. **Reports that do not require a Senate vote** – Thomas Borchert stated that due to time constraints, the CAC Report of a prefix change will be moved to the October agenda to allow time for questions or comments.

7. **Report on University DEI activities** – Amer Ahmed, Vice Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Paul Yoon, Senior Advisor for Inclusive Excellence, and Sherwood Smith, Senior Executive Director for Inclusive Excellence and Faculty Engagement, presented an overview of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives at UVM. Their presentation and links to the 2022 Campus Climate Survey summary were included with the agenda. Amer Ahmed shared highlights of the diversity strategic planning process that is underway throughout the university, including the timeline and template available to help guide units in developing a comprehensive DEI inclusive excellence plan. The data from the Campus Climate Survey is also informing the development of the individual plans. Paul Yoon is serving as the primary resource for non-academic units and reported that they have been hosting sessions for members of the University Diversity Council (UDC) to review dashboards created by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment using the data from the 2022 Campus Climate Survey. The UDC members are collaborating with their respective units to go through the data on the dashboard. Sherwood Smith highlighted the work he has been doing as the primary consultant for the academic units, including meeting with Deans, and helping units work on their plan so they can be continually moving the process forward. He is also planning for the next Inclusive Excellence Symposium, MLK Day and other events. Amer Ahmed encouraged faculty to engage in the work that is happening in their departments and academic units. The floor was opened for questions. Discussion topics included reducing harm in the community and addressing harm when it occurs; resources for infusing DEI into academic and clinical programs; and suggestions for disaggregating Campus Climate Survey data.

8. **Senate Representation** – Chris Burns presented the results of the Executive Council’s study of how Senate representation is allocated. The study was completed to fulfill the charge of a resolution passed by the Faculty Senate in December 2021. The report and charts highlighting three models of representation were included with the agenda. The Executive Council recommended that the Senate take no action in the current moment to change the method of representation. Thomas Borchert stated that due to time constraints discussion and questions on Senate representation will be deferred to the October meeting.

9. **New Business** – none at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM