



Minutes

Monday, October 18, 2021

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 4:00 PM

Senators in Attendance: 69

Absent: Senators Agnarsson (Biology), Calkins (Family Medicine), Weinstein (Family Medicine), Mieder (German & Russian), Spees (Medicine), Terrien (Medicine), Moore (Pediatrics), Maruti (Psychiatry), Danks (RSENr)

1. Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks – Thomas Borchert spoke about shared governance. The University Manual (Section 2.6.2), as well as the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws, outlines the direct and indirect authority of the Faculty Senate. President Borchert has focused on ensuring that members of the faculty are in the room when decisions are being made to both ensure that faculty interests are represented, and to utilize the faculty expertise to benefit the University in fulfilling its mission. The Senate will be voting on both the establishment and termination of programs, and on procedures to regularize Senate participation in unit level restructuring. These procedures and documents like the University Manual and the Senate Constitution and Bylaws are important guardrails that guide how we act, and who has authority. President Borchert reminded the Senate that these documents are not permanent but are tools that can change as conditions demand, so it is important to attend to the process laid out for making changes to ensure that all stakeholders are heard during the change process.

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

- Minutes of the September 2021 Faculty Senate Meeting
- Ad hoc Committee on Senate Authority – Amendment to Resolution regarding ad hoc committee membership
- Curricular Affairs
 - a) No-contest Deactivation of the RN-BS Program in Nursing (CNHS)
 - b) No-contest Termination Italian Studies Major (CAS)
 - c) No-Contest Termination Italian Minor (CAS)
 - d) No-Contest Termination Speech and Debate Minor (CAS)
 - e) No-contest Termination VT Studies Minor (CAS)

- f) New Certificate of Graduate Study and Micro-Certificate of Graduate Study in Education for Sustainability (GRAD/CESS)

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. No requests were received, and the vote opened.

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

3. Committee Reports – Two written reports were submitted by Senate Standing Committees regarding action taken by the committees. These actions do not require a vote by the full Senate. The following reports are attached to these minutes:

- Curricular Affairs Committee Report on Actions Taken in Committee
- Student Affairs Committee Report on Actions Taken in Committee

4. Presentation 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: Graduate College (42)

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

5. Revised Procedures for Academic Organization

Thomas Borchert presented revised versions of the Senate Procedures Related to the Establishment, Reorganization, and Elimination of: 1) Colleges and Schools, 2) a School within a College, and 3) a Department. The Senate procedures for changing academic structure of units have been the subject of Senate discussion since March 2021. The procedures were passed by the Senate in May 2021 and brought back to the Senate in September 2021 with proposed changes in sections 2, 3, and 4. At the September Senate meeting, a few changes were suggested by Louis deRosset, Senator from the Philosophy Department, to clarify the charge of the ad hoc committee that reviews proposals. Thomas Borchert worked with Professor deRosset and Vice Provost Dickinson on these changes. Changes presented to the Senate for consideration and vote at this meeting include:

- 1) Section 2B was revised from “an ad hoc committee of nine members will review the proposal”, to “an ad hoc committee of nine members will be constituted to gather faculty commentary, review the proposal and make recommendations regarding the proposal to the Faculty Senate.”, and
- 2) Section 4C was revised from “at the time of circulation an ad hoc committee will be appointed and begin its work to review the comments and evaluate the proposal. The committee may ask clarifying questions from the proposal’s authors, or request additional relevant information needed to make a recommendation to the Senate”, to “The committee may solicit comment (either in writing or in person) from faculty and the proposal’s authors, or request additional relevant information needed to make recommendation of the Senate.”

Thomas Borchert opened the floor for discussion. Discussion topics included both support for and concerns about the revised procedures. Statements of support involved shared governance

and the guarantee that processes provide for review by a committee composed of faculty selected and run by faculty, charged with gathering and summarizing the view of faculty. Concerns included the desire to ensure the process is robust, and not simply a consent process.

Motion: Thomas Borchert called a vote on the Revised Senate Procedures Related to the Establishment, Reorganization, and Elimination of 1) Colleges and Schools, 2) a School within a College, and 3) a Department.

Vote: 46 approved, 6 opposed, 11 abstained. The motion carried.

6. Catamount Core Curriculum –Pablo Bose and J. Dickinson presented an overview of the Catamount Core. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes. The presentation included where to find information on the website, such as the course action supplement forms for course approvals for Gen Ed designation, rules for the Catamount Core, the work of the Catamount Core Curriculum Committee, and a review of the implementation timetable. J. Dickinson announced the receipt of a Davis Educational Foundation grant to cover two years of faculty development and assessment work associated with UVM’s General Education program. The presentation also included a list of frequently asked questions from faculty regarding submission of courses for Gen Ed designation. Faculty with questions should reach out to Pablo Bose (Pablo.Bose@uvm.edu) for assistance.

7. New Business –

David Feurzeig, Senator representing the Department of Music asked that the Senate consider the potential effects of departmental changes on Senate representation. President Borchert will bring this question to the Executive Council.

Thomas Borchert announced that Simeon Ananou, CIO, and Jim Vigoreaux, VP for Faculty Affairs have invited and are encouraging faculty to attend presentations by the two Learning Management System (LMS) vendors being considered to replace BlackBoard. Demonstrations for faculty by D2L (Brightspace) and Instructure (Canvas) will take place October 29th and November 3rd.

Jacques Baily moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 PM