



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Monday, December 19, 2022

On Microsoft Teams 3:00 – 4:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President, Thomas Borchert at 3:02 PM

Senators in Attendance: 62

Absent: Senators Vacant (Anesthesiology Rep2), McDowell (Art & Art History), Ikeda (Asian Languages & Literatures), Vacant (Chemistry), Conroy (Counseling, Human Development & Family Science), Ramirez-Harrington (Economics), Bombliès (Engineering, Civil & Environmental), Callahan (Extension), Calkins (Family Medicine Rep2), Terrien (Medicine Rep1), Diehl (Microbiology & Molecular Genetics), Saia (Pediatrics Rep 1), White (Physics), Lach (Radiology Rep1), Ali (Radiology Rep 2), Smith (Rehabilitation & Movement Sciences), Lopez-Vicuna (Romance Languages)

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- 1. Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks** – Thomas Borchert recognized the end of the semester and applauded the faculty for their work. He also expressed gratitude for the retiring colleagues for their time and service to the university.
 - 2. Approval of Minutes of the November 2022 Faculty Senate meeting.**

Motion: Anthony Julianelle moved to approve the minutes of the November 2022 Faculty Senate meeting. The motion was seconded.

Vote: 44 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. **The motion carried**
 - 3. Proposal to establish Institute for Agroecology (discussion)** – Thomas Borchert stated that the proposal for the Institute for Agroecology was circulated to the faculty for comment, and is being reviewed by the Research, Scholarship, and the Creative Arts Committee (RSCA) of the Faculty Senate. Upon completion of their review, the RSCA will make a recommendation to the Senate, and the Senate will vote on the proposal at the January meeting. President Borchert recognized Ernesto Mendez to provide an overview of the process for developing the proposal and the goals of the Institute for Agroecology. The proposal was included with the agenda for this meeting. The floor was opened for comments. Ernesto Mendez responded to the one comment received and confirmed that topical areas would include the fungal kingdom. Additional comments and questions for consideration in the review of the proposal should be emailed to Thomas Borchert.
 - 4. Proposal to create a School of World Languages and Cultures (discussion)** – Thomas Borchert reminded the Senate that the proposal to create a School of World Languages and

Cultures inside the College of Arts and Sciences is being reviewed by an ad hoc committee. Upon completion of their review, the ad hoc committee will make a recommendation to the Senate Executive Council, and the Senate will vote on the proposal at the January meeting. President Borchert recognized Abigail McGowan to provide a brief overview of the goals of the proposal. The proposal was circulated to the faculty for comment and was included with the agenda for this meeting. The floor was opened for comments and questions. Discussion topics included the difference and similarities between a school and a department, confirmation that literature courses will be included, RPT voting procedures and the desire for a side-letter with United Academics, the change in the apportionment of Senate representation, and the administrative service burden and workload of program directors vs. chairs.

5. **HELIOS Discussion** – Mary Cushman, co-chair of the Research Scholarship and the Creative Arts Committee (RSCA) presented information about the Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship (HELIOS). The presentation slides are attached to the minutes and included the concept that scholarly work should be freely available, definitions of open access, benefits, and areas to consider. The floor was opened for comments and questions. Discussion topics included protections against misuse of information, concerns about how the publishing field is going to develop to make money, open access for scholarly books vs. articles, and issues surrounding incentivizing the practice and eliminate the penalty that junior faculty might face by publishing in a lower impact journal. Thomas Borchert stated that the conversation will continue in the RSCA and the Senate.

6. Reports that do not require a Senate vote

- The Student Affairs Committee approved a change to Final Exam Policy to add clarity around lab exams. The current policy states that “No course may conduct more than one in class exam or test during the last two weeks of the semester (week prior to finals week and the week of finals).” The following phrase has been added to that statement: **“except lab exams with specific lab sections and practical exams associated with non-lab courses. “**
- The Curricular Affairs Committee provided a report of actions taken by the CAC that does not require a Senate vote. The Curricular affairs committee approved the change in prefix from CE (Civil Engineering) to CEE (Civil and Environmental Engineering) for the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences

7. New Business – none at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 PM