



FACULTY SENATE

Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Committee

April 14, 2022

12:30-2:00

Microsoft Teams

Present: Thomas Borchert (FS President), Marieka Burg (CAS), Mary Cushman (LCOM), Evan Eyler (Faculty Senate Vice President), Rachelle Gould (RSENr), Jennifer Hurley (CESS), Dimitry Kremmentsov (CNHS), Jill Preston (CALs), Christie Silkotch (LIB), Daniel Weiss (LCOM), Chun Zhang (GSB)

Absent: Raju Badireddy (CEMS), Brandon Bensel (Postdoctoral Association), Jonah Steinberg (CAS), Pending (GSS), Sarah Wood (SGA)

Guests: Kirk Dombrowski, Cindy Forehand

Co-Chair Gould called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm via Microsoft Teams.

1. Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of the March 2022 meeting were approved as written.

2. VP of Research Update, Kirk Dombrowski.

- **D1 Update.**

- They were closer than they thought they would be. UVM trails their peers in both number of social sciences PHDs and humanities PHDs.
- Some of the reason they are closer is because of the way things have been counted in the past, they have started counting them in a more productive way.
- Sabbatical pay has not been counted as a research expenditure but once they do the research spending in the humanities will go up dramatically.
- If UVM continues to do what they are doing and push in new areas, they should do well.
- July 1 is the start of the new R1 cycle.
- Have started 3 new PHD programs as part of long-term planning.

- F & A money that goes to the OVPR has gone from 5% to 7.5% and will land at 10% to help support these efforts.
- **Internal Funding.**
 - They created an Office of Research Development.
 - Funding opportunities can be found on the OVPR website <https://www.uvm.edu/ovpr>.
 - The Henderson Program, more information can be found <https://www.uvm.edu/diversity/george-washington-henderson-fellowship-program>
 - They have gone from 2.5 million in corporate sponsored research to about 10 million since Kirk has joined UVM.
 - Can the RSCA help you identify areas where it is hard to get funding.
 - The committee would like to invite Kirk back to discuss Institutes.
- **Decolonizing Research.**
 - Informal brown bag lunch to discuss this issue on May 4th at noon facilitated by the RSCA subgroup.

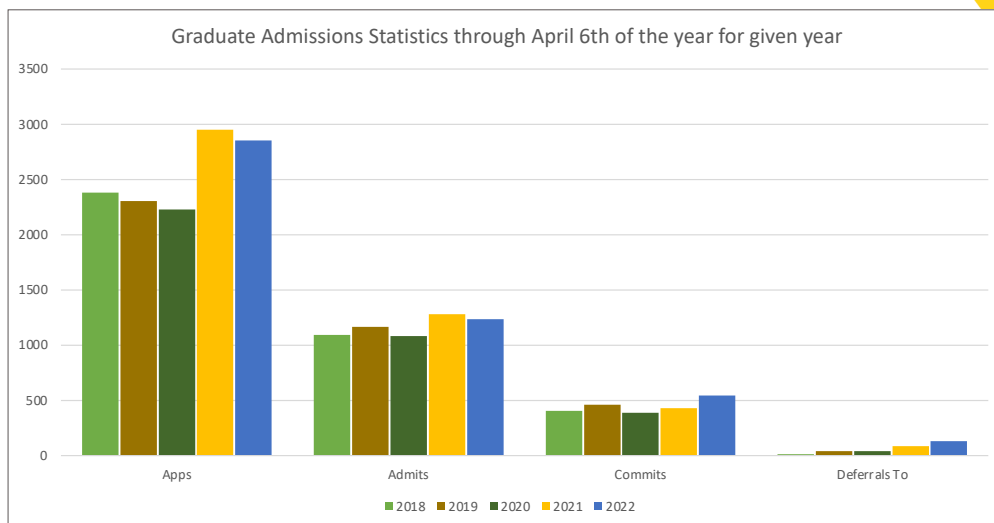
3. Graduate College Update, Cindy Forehand.

Graduate College Updates

RSCA Meeting
4-14-22

Presented by:
Cindy Forehand
Dean of the Graduate College
University of Vermont Graduate College

- Postdoctoral position parameters committee
- Graduate Assistant stipends, benefits and position parameters committee
- Funding Letter Template
- Mentoring workshops in collaboration with Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs
- Admissions
- New programs



<u>International</u>	<u>As of 4/6</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Apps		753	433	358	363	330
Admits		199	125	107	133	122
Commits		88	34	24	42	33

<u>% International</u>	<u>As of 4/6</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Apps		26%	15%	16%	16%	14%
Admits		16%	10%	10%	11%	11%
Commits		16%	8%	6%	9%	8%

New programs

AY 22-23

- Certificate of Graduate Study in Education for Sustainability
- Micro-certificate of Graduate Study in Education for Sustainability
- PhD in Transdisciplinary Leadership, Creativity, and Sustainability

AY 23-24

- PhD in Social, Emotional and Behavioral Health and Inclusive Education
- PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision

4. Resolution on Teaching / Learning on Race and Racism.

Resolution by the Faculty Senate that Rejects Any Attempts to Interfere with Faculty Autonomy in Teaching and Researching Racial and Social Justice, Including Attempted Bans on Teaching Critical Race Theory

Whereas state legislatures are introducing proposals across the United States that target academic discussions of racism and related issues in American history in schools, college, and universities; and Whereas the University Manual affirms the importance of academic freedom to the proper functioning of universities, citing the American Association of University Professors' 1940 statement of principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure; and

Whereas the Constitution and Bylaws of the Faculty Senate states that the Faculty are empowered "To review and establish policy with respect to...Academic freedom including rights and responsibilities" (section 1.1.a); and

Whereas these legislative proposals vary but all seek to prohibit or restrict curriculum on what they call "divisive concepts" in the teaching and education of students; and

Whereas the term "divisive" is indeterminate, subjective, and chills the capacity of educators to explore a wide variety of topics based on subjective criteria that are inapposite from the goals of education and the development of essential critical thinking skills; and

Whereas educating about systemic barriers to realizing a multiracial democracy based on race or gender should be understood as central to the active and engaged pursuit of knowledge in the twenty-first century to produce engaged and informed citizens; and

Whereas UVM's Our Common Ground states, "As a just community, we unite against all forms of injustice, including, but not limited to, racism. We reject bigotry, oppression, degradation, and harassment, and we challenge injustice toward any member of our community."

Whereas while Vermont's current legislature and governor have not sought to restrict academic freedom at the University of Vermont, Vermont is not immune from these efforts; and

Whereas teaching and research regarding the diversity of human experience, equity, power and privilege represent fundamental aspects of contemporary university education, and that topics of critical importance include race and racism, anti-Semitism, religious diversity and discrimination, gender dynamics and discrimination; gender identity and expression, sexual orientation and queerness, homophobia and transphobia.

Therefore be it resolved that the University of Vermont Faculty Senate supports teaching, research, and scholarship in these and related fields, including critical race theory, and opposes censorship and the suppression of scholarly inquiry and dialog; and

That the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont resolutely rejects any attempts by bodies external to the faculty to restrict or dictate university curriculum on any matter, including matters

related to racial and social justice, and will state firm against encroachment on faculty authority by the legislature or the Board of Trustees; and

That the Faculty Senate of UVM stands with our K-12 colleagues throughout the country who may be affected by this pernicious legislation; and

That the Faculty Senate affirms the [Joint Statement on Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism](#) authored by the AAUP, PEN America, the American Historical Association, and the Association of American Colleges and Universities, issued on June 6, 2021.

The RSCA will add this to the agenda for the May meeting.

5. **Faculty Senate Office Update.** There was no time for an update, the Faculty Senate Office will send out an e-mail asking for nominations for a 2022 /2023 chair. Once the nomination period closes the Faculty Senate Office will hold an electronic election. The Faculty Senate Office will also ask the committee via e-mail how they would like to meet for the 2022 /2023 year. There currently is not an option to make meetings hybrid but the office will continue to research the possibilities.

6. **Old or New Business.** There was no time at this meeting for old / new business.

7. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

The next meeting of the RSCA will take place on Thursday, May 12th at 12:30 on Microsoft Teams.