



FACULTY SENATE

Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Committee

May 14, 2020

12:30-2:00

Microsoft Teams

Present: Kelly Mancini Becker (CESS), Brandon Bensel (Postdoctoral Association), Vicki Brennan (CAS), Thomas Chittenden (Faculty Senate President), Mary Cushman (LCOM), Prudence Doherty (LIB), Katie Gough (CAS), Rachelle Gould (RSEN), Erik Monsen (GSB), Dimitry Kremontsov (CNHS), Stephanie Wooby (SGA)

Absent: Nick Adler (GSS), Britt Holmén (CEMS), Steve Keller (CAL), Vacant (CAS, Fine Arts Rep), Daniel Weiss (LCOM)

Guests: No Guests

Chair Cushman called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm via Microsoft Teams.

- 1. Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes of April 2020 were approved as written.
- 2. 2020/ 2021 RSCA Committee.** There are three members of the committee that have terms ending, Prudence Doherty (Lib), Steve Keller (CAL) and Mary Cushman (LCOM). This will be Steve and Prudence's last meeting. Mary is on the LCOM ballot to continue, elections will be finished in June. There is also an open Fine Arts rep from CAS, they are working on filling this position. As long as Mary Cis elected from LCOM she will serve as the RSCA Chair for the 2020 / 2021 term. Both Kelly and Eric have completed their sabbatical coverage on will no longer serve on the RSCA. Mary thanked the departing committee members.
- 3. COVID 19 Update and the Faculty Senate.** This is a fast-moving subject. There are four sub groups that are charged that have faculty representatives. They have chosen faculty from elected Faculty Senators; it wasn't the best way to select membership but it was fast moving. Thomas Chittenden is happy to be a point person so if anyone has thoughts or questions, they are welcome to reach out to him. He will be representing faculty on one of the groups. Mary is on the Research and Graduate Education group, so send her any thoughts or concerns.

Discussion was had:

- There will be a cost of bringing students back that is weighed against the cost of losing students who will not return if we are 100% remote learning. President Garimella is committed to student return to campus.
- How do we move forward with research and how it is going in other areas of the university? There is currently a campus wide ad hoc committee on research resumption (Dimitry and Vicki are members) looking at these issues, headed by the new VP of Research. Deans are providing leadership also.
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- We discussed the added pressures for those returning to research with regard to childcare, caring for sick relatives and the added concerns of COVID-19 - the human factors – and how these differ for women and men. All of us involved in committee work should keep this in mind, and speak up about it.

4. 2020/ 2021 Committee Goals.

- **Enhanced VPR relationship.** Mary has sent him correspondence and invited him to a meeting for early next fall.
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration.**
 - Including oversight of research centers.
 - FAN
 - New programs
 - GUND review.
- **Libraries.** Elsevier contracts and other topics that might arise
- **Academic Freedom.** The most recently negotiated collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between UVM and United Academics (UA) has an article seeking a social media / electronic media review of the university statement on academic freedom processed through ‘the normal protocols of the faculty senate’. The RSCA needs someone to spearhead this small task in the fall. Let Tiera know if you are willing.
- **FOUR.** Ann Kroll Lerner updates.
- **Grad College.** Dean Forehand updates.
- **Post Doc Association and Post Doc issue.** Brandon will continue as the rep to the RSCA for next year. The Post Doc Association is working on starting a peer to peer mentoring program between post doc level to graduate level. RSCA expressed interest in helping to plan. Post Doc students want programs to help with grant writing skill, teaching opportunities, and business management principals. RSCA was requested to help with these topics? The planned survey on COVID-19 related challenges was not successful at this time, they may try again at a later date.
- **Student Research.**
- **UVM Innovation.** Invite Corrine Farewell to present. Daniel Weiss is engaged in these efforts on campus.
- **COVID 19.**
- **IRB.** Rachelle suggested inviting IRB chair to speak with us and discuss successes and challenges. She will send ideas how to proceed on this topic.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.