



FACULTY SENATE

Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Committee

November 12, 2020

12:30-2:00

Microsoft Teams

Present: Mildred Beltre (CAS, Fine Arts Rep), Vicki Brennan (CAS), Mary Cushman (LCOM), Rachelle Gould (RSENr), Dimitry Kremmentsov (CNHS), Erik Monsen (GSB), Jill Preston (CALs), Christie Silkotch (LIB), Daniel Weiss (LCOM)

Absent: Brandon Bensel (Postdoctoral Association), Thomas Chittenden (Faculty Senate President), Katie Gough (CAS) Britt Holmén (CEMS), Tammy Kolbe (CESS), Vacant (GSS), Vacant (SGA)

Guests: Kirk Dombrowski, Cindy Forehand

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

1. Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of October 8, 2020 were approved as written. The minutes of the RSCA Special Meeting were also approved as written.

2. Future Agenda Items / Calendar Review.

- Invite representation from IRB, Vicki and Rachelle will work on drafting an invitation that the Faculty Senate Office will send out.
- Invite Dean Jenneman to discuss the universities reorganization efforts.
- Post Doc Association Update, the Faculty Senate Office will work with Brandon on setting a date for this.
- UVM Innovation Update, Dan and Erik will work on drafting an invitation that the Faculty Sente Office will send out.
- Office of Engagement, invite Chris Koliba to a future meeting.
- How can the RSCA support faculty that want to boycott Elsevier.

3. IRB, Rachelle Gould.

The committee discussed the role of the IRB and how it could better serve community-based research. The committee would like to get a better understanding of how the IRB works and would like to invite IRB

members to a RSCA meeting. Rachele and Vicki will come up with a statement of invitation that the Faculty Senate Office will send out.

4. University Manual, Jill Preston.

As requested by the Faculty Senate, the RSCA subcommittee on Academic Freedom collectively drafted the following statement on October 13th 2020 and submitted it for comment to the RSCA on November 12th 2020.

Academic Freedom and Special Responsibilities of Faculty Members

In line with the University of Vermont's core mission to evaluate, share, and apply knowledge, the University supports and encourages its faculty to express opinions, without fear of retribution, that may sometimes challenge the ideas of others in the discharge of their duties. As such, we the University will provide the environment, resources, training and policies that facilitate each faculty member's academic freedom as prescribed in the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure and the 1970 Interpretive Comments of the American Association of University Professors, as well as the University of Maryland Faculty Handbook:

- (a) Faculty are entitled to full freedom in their research and in the related publication and presentation of their results within the standards of accountability established by their profession and individual disciplines.
- (b) Faculty are entitled to freedom of teaching. Instruction may occur in an atmosphere of controversy so long as what is taught remains, in a broad sense, educationally relevant, placed in an appropriate context, and assists students in mastering or appreciating the significance of the subject.
- (c) By virtue of their education and institutional knowledge, faculty play a role as participants in university decision-making. Thus, they are entitled to comment on university policies or decisions, either as individual university members or through institutions of faculty governance.
- (d) Faculty are private individuals, members of a learned profession, and officers of the university. They should be free to participate in public forums, debates and symbolic expression within or beyond their areas of professional expertise, without fear of institutional discipline or restraint.

Faculty enjoy a special position in the community-at-large and as a result have a responsibility to indicate when they are not speaking/acting on behalf of the university, demonstrate respect for the rights and views of others, exercise intellectual honesty, and avoid speech not protected by the Supreme Court.

Erik motioned to approve the proposal; Dimitry seconded the motion.

Approve:8 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0

The Academic Freedom and Special Responsibilities of Faculty Members motion is approved by the RSCA.

5. VP of Research Update, Kirk Dombrowski.

- Kirk started on April 1, 2020 one day after the university went to remote. This made for a hectic start; however, things went relatively smoothly and his office was able to get things back online.
- A major goal of his is to update and modernize the Office of Research. He has been working on re-organization to bring other offices into his office and make clearer pathways between offices.
- He working on the R1 status directive and has created a set of objectives / goals. He has looked at what the university does well and what is needs improvement on to get to the R1 status.
- He implemented new programs this fall with one-time funds.

- Has started a Research Advisory Committee that includes the chair of the RSCA. Their first meeting was in September. This is a way to connect the Office of Research with the colleges and share ideas.
- Working with the Library staff on negotiations with Elsevier.

R1 Status, Kirk Dombrowski. R1 is an acknowledgment by the Carnegie Board that opens doors by creating more research funding opportunities. There are 7 metrics that rank institutions against all other universities, and each category is averaged. If you have a zero average in one of the metrics is really hurts your overall average even if you are amazing in the other areas. On examination, UVM is under reporting in several categories. Improved reporting isn't the full solution, but it does get us a lot closer to success. The table below shows past, current and projected status. Evaluation occurs every 3 years and we are focusing on 2024 as a goal.

Benchmarks and Thresholds for Achieving R1

Metric	Source	2018 R1 threshold	2019 Reported	2019 (adjusted)^	2021 Threshold	2024 Threshold
Aggregate Research Index						
STEM Research Expenditures	HERD	\$150M	\$136M	\$156M	\$174M	\$201M
Non-STEM Research Expenditures	HERD	\$22.1	\$0.2M	\$9.2M	\$25.6M	\$29.6M
# of Research Staff w/doctorates	GSS	85	76	156	98	113
# of STEM Doctorates Awarded	IPEDS	53	73	73	61	70
# of Humanities Doctorates Awarded	IPEDS	0*	0*	0*	0*	0*
# of Social Science Doctorates Awarded	IPEDS	16	13	13	19	19**
# of Other Doctorates	IPEDS	30	13	13	35	35**
Per Capita Research Index						
n.b. Reported # of Faculty	IPEDS	1007	1035	536		
STEM Expenditures per Faculty Member	HERD	\$150k	\$131k	\$291k	\$165.4k	\$191.4
Non-Stem Expenditures per Faculty Member	HERD	\$22.3k	\$0.18k	\$35.3k	\$24.6k	\$28.5k

^Ongoing revisions to our reporting strategies in GSS and HERD surveys would result in substantial differences from our actual 2019 reports. This column approximates those changes. Updated strategies will include reporting Research Faculty in the count of Research Staff and not in the count of faculty and limiting the later to tenure line faculty; including proportions of base-pay allocated to research; general fund support for graduate tuition; unrecovered F&A across a wider range of sources.
*Issues related to new doctoral programs in the humanities are discussed below.

6. Old or New Business. There was no old or new business.

7. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:56 pm.

The next meeting of the RSCA will take place on Thursday, December 10th at 12:30 on Microsoft Teams.