



FACULTY SENATE

Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Committee

October 14, 2021

12:30-2:00

Microsoft Teams

Present: Mildred Beltre (CAS, Fine Arts Rep), Vicki Brennan (CAS), Mary Cushman (LCOM), Evan Eyer (Faculty Senate Vice President), Rachelle Gould (RSEN), Jill Preston (CAL), Christie Silkotch (LIB)

Absent: Dimitry Kremontsov (CNHS), Pending (CESS), Pending (SGA), Pending (GSS), Pending (Postdoctoral Association), Jonah Steinberg (CAS), Daniel Weiss (LCOM), Chun Zhang (GSB)

Guests: Kirk Dombrowski

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

1. Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of September 2021 were approved as written.

2. Chairs Update.

- At Executive Committees meeting with the President and Provost there were conversations about the new Interim Director of Continuing Education and the processes going forward.
- Thomas Borchert would like more engagement between the Faculty Senate as a whole and the standing committees.
- No updates on the Academic Freedom Policy at this point, it seems to be on hold.

3. Graduate College Update, Dean Forehand.

10/14/21 RSCA

Graduate College Updates

- Admissions:
 - All numbers up!
- Covid Response highlight communication issues with messages to graduate students
- Transition away from 200 level courses approved for graduate credit
- Current initiatives
 - Advisory Board
 - Ad hoc committees – seeking members:

Three working groups will be set up as ad hoc committees for the Graduate Executive Committee, with leadership from the GEC and membership including faculty, students and in some cases staff from across the University. Would like to have an RSCA representative for each.

- Vision Statement Group will define foundational principles and aspirational goals of the Graduate College and facilitate acquisition of resources to support the vision. Liz Fenton agreed to be the GEC lead for this committee. Chris Koliba has joined from CALS.
- Review of Post-Doctoral Position parameters will reassess parameters for post-doctoral positions at UVM, regarding salaries, retirement benefits, and more. Matt Liptak agreed to be the GEC lead for this committee. John Meluso from the Postdoctoral Association and Chris Berger from the Larner Column of Medicine are also members. Rachelle?
- Review of Principles for setting assistantship funding levels for FY 23. Michael Previs agreed to be the GEC lead for this committee.

4. IRB Discussion, Vicki & Rachelle. The IRB will at the November meeting to have a conversation about research outside of the research mainstream and the problems that research may have. There are two main topics they will present.

- One will be examples of broad problems that people have had
- The design of IRB and how the design doesn't work for all types of research, not just a UVM issue.

If anyone on the committee have had issues or know anyone hat has, please share them with Vicki and Rachelle so they can be included in the conversations.

5. Libraries Update, Dean Geffert. Libraries has had budget cuts going back as far as 2006 each year. Due to these cuts, they were not able to purchase Science Direct this year. The faculty was told the savings from not purchasing Science Direct would be used to purchase new materials. This is not the case; the total savings have not been added to the libraries budget. The library is working on ways to provide the best service for the UVM community with the resources they have. The committee will look over the Libraries Strategic Priorities and Strategic Initiatives draft and will invite Dean Geffert back to the November RSCA meeting to have further discussions.

6. Old or New Business. There was none at this time.

7. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

*Sabbatical

The next meeting of the RSCA will take place on Thursday, November 11th at 12:30 on Microsoft Teams.