



FACULTY SENATE

Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Committee

Sept 10, 2020

12:30-2:00

Microsoft Teams

Present: Brandon Bensel (Postdoctoral Association), Mildred Beltre (CAS, Fine Arts Rep), Vicki Brennan (CAS), Thomas Chittenden (Faculty Senate President), Mary Cushman (LCOM), Katie Gough (CAS), Rachelle Gould (RSENr), Britt Holmén (CEMS), Tammy Kolbe (CESS), Dimitry Kremmentsov (CNHS), Erik Monsen (GSB), Jill Preston (CALs), Christie Silkotch (LIB)

Absent: Vacant (GSS), Daniel Weiss (LCOM) Vacant (SGA)

Guests: Dean Bryn Geffert

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

1. Introductions.

Vicki Brennan	CAS	2019-2022
Mary Cushman	LCOM	2020-2023
Rachelle Gould	RSENr	2019-2022
Christie Silkotch	LIB	2020-2023
Jill Preston	CALs	2020-2023
Daniel Weiss	LCOM	2019-2022
Britt Holmen	CEMS	2018-2021
Erik Monsen	GSB	2019-2022
Tammy Kolbe	CESS	2018-2021
Katie Gough	CAS	2018-2021
Mildred Beltre	CAS (Fine Arts)	2020-2023
Dimitry Kremmentsov	CNHS	2019-2022
Thomas Chittenden	Faculty Senate President	2019-2021

Pending	Graduate Student Senate	2020-2021
Pending	Student Government Ass.	2020-2021
Brandon Bensel	Post Doc Rep	2020-2021

2. Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of May 2020 were approved as written.

3. RSCA Operating Procedures.

Adopted by RSCA 09-13-2018

Last updated 09-13-2018

Faculty Senate Research, Scholarship, and the Creative Arts Committee

Operating Procedures

RSCA Membership & Responsibilities (Source: Faculty Senate Bylaws)

7.1.2.1 Elected Members.

- a. Number. Except as described below, standing committees and standing subcommittees shall be composed of at least one member from each of the major academic units (the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Agriculture and Life Sciences, Education and Social Services, Engineering and Mathematics, and Medicine; the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Business Administration, and Natural Resources; and the Offices of Extension, and of the Libraries. A unit with more than 200 full-time eligible faculty members may elect one additional member to each standing committee and standing subcommittee.
- b. Eligibility. Any eligible faculty member may stand for election by his/her college or school to serve on a standing committee except as otherwise stated in these Bylaws.
- c. Term. Members of the standing committees shall be elected for three years or as otherwise stated in these Bylaws, starting on July 1. Terms shall be staggered so that approximately one-third of the standing committee members shall be elected each year.
- d. Election. The election of standing committee members shall be the responsibility of the individual college and school faculties. Elections shall be held no later than April of each year and shall be conducted by secret ballot distributed to all eligible faculty members of the college/school. An opportunity must be provided for all eligible faculty members to volunteer to run for election to Senate standing committees. The Faculty Senate shall supervise the elections of Senate Standing Committees; concerns regarding election irregularities must be communicated to the Senate President by May 1.
- e. Vacancies. If a standing committee member vacates his/her seat the vacancy shall be filled by a special election within the unit from which s/he was elected. The term of a member under these circumstances shall commence immediately and shall normally be for the unexpired term of the regularly elected member. If a standing committee member is granted leave for one year or less a replacement shall be elected by a special election within the unit from which s/he was elected to take the absent standing committee member's seat for the period of the leave.
- f. Attendance. A standing committee member absent from three committee meetings in a calendar year in the absence of mitigating circumstances will be considered to have vacated his/her seat.
- g. Members of the Senate. A standing committee member may also serve as an Elected Senator. Standing committee members are members of the Senate without vote if not also an Elected Senator.

7.1.2.2 Ex Officio Members.

The Senate President is a voting ex officio member of every Faculty Senate committee and subcommittee, with the exception of the Nominating Committee in 3.5, and may designate a member of the Executive Council to act on his/her

behalf. The Faculty Senate Vice-President is a nonvoting ex officio member of every Faculty Senate committee and subcommittee except when serving as the Senate President's designee.

7.1.2.3 Student Members.

- a. Standing committees may invite graduate and/or undergraduate students designated by student governing bodies on a one-year renewable basis to serve on the committee.

7.1.3 General Duties of Standing Committees.

- a. They shall recommend policy and changes in policy in their areas of responsibility to the Faculty Senate. They may initiate action on matters clearly within their province and request that they be placed on the agenda of the Senate meeting by the Executive Council.
- b. They shall receive and consider policy proposals in their areas of responsibility from the Faculty Senate, the administration, student bodies, etc., and present their recommendations to the Faculty Senate for action.
- c. They shall consider budgetary implications for policies in their areas of responsibility and make appropriate recommendations to the Faculty Senate and the administration regarding University priorities.
- d. They shall annually review sections of the Officers' Handbook pertaining to their areas of concern and make recommendations for revision.
- e. They shall consult with and provide advice to the administration, student groups, etc., in their areas of responsibility when requested to do so. Policy proposals generated as a result of these consultations shall be presented to the Faculty Senate for consideration and action.
- f. They shall keep records of their activities and present reports at least once a year to the Faculty Senate.
- g. They shall maintain close liaison with appropriate committees and groups established by the individual academic units, the student governing bodies, the Staff Council, and other University constituencies.
- h. They shall meet frequently in order to promptly and responsively discharge their duties to the Senate, the faculty, and the University as a whole.

7.1.5.4 Research, Scholarship, and The Creative Arts Committee.

This committee shall have responsibility for matters relating to research activities, scholarly work, and creative and performing arts carried out at the University, including graduate education and items referred to in Sections 1.1c, 1.2b, 1.2g, and 1.2k. It shall review, recommend, and participate in the formulation of policy with respect to resources related to these activities, including physical facilities and allocation of appurtenant space, library resources and resources for graduate programs, and make recommendations to assure effective use of these resources. It shall serve as liaison between the Senate and the administration on such matters as, but not limited to: the broad role of the University in advancing knowledge through research, scholarship, and the performing arts; external and internal support for encouraging these activities, including graduate and undergraduate research; intellectual property, and technology transfer; ethical issues and issues affecting the academic environment as these arise in research or scholarly work. It shall consult frequently with other University and collegiate committees that are charged to initiate, maintain, and monitor institutional support programs for research, scholarship, the creative arts, and graduate education, as well as maintain close liaison with appropriate administrative offices in its areas of responsibility.

Supplementing the membership described in 7.121a above, this committee shall include an additional member from the College of Arts and Sciences representing the field of the creative and performing arts.

Committee Procedures

- RSCA meets once a month during the academic year. Historically this has been on Thursdays from 12:30-2 in Waterman 427A. Elected members should have a schedule that allows for regular attendance at meetings.

- At its September meeting, RSCA shall orient new members to the committee and draft a list of topics it would like to cover during the upcoming academic year.
- Administrative offices that RSCA maintains close liaison with are:
 - Office of the Vice President for Research
 - Graduate College
 - Libraries
 - Office of Fellowships, Opportunities and Undergraduate Research
 - Provost's office
- Relationship with Office of Fellowships, Opportunities, and Undergraduate Research (FOUR). RSCA plays an advisory role with FOUR which includes but is not limited to:
 - Input on the Student Research Conference.
 - Collaboration on FOUR initiatives as agreed upon by both parties.
 - Assistance forging partnerships – either directly by the voluntary participation of RSCA members or indirectly through RSCA suggestions.
 - Assistance with new or ongoing initiatives or ideas.
 - Acting as “ambassadors” of FOUR by disseminating information to appropriate groups (faculty, staff, students) as applicable to your individual positions at the University.

The nature of communication will be through twice annual presentations by FOUR to RSCA.

- RSCA reviews the Burack Distinguished Lecture Series nominations twice per academic year, typically at the November and April meetings. Lecture nominations are considered confidential and should not be shared outside of the Committee. Information about the Lecture Series can be found here - <https://www.uvm.edu/~president/burack/>
- RSCA reviews University Distinguished Professor Nominations in the Spring semester, typically at the April meeting. These nominations are considered confidential and should not be shared outside of the Committee. Information about the University Distinguished Professor program can be found here - <http://www.uvm.edu/~provost/udp/>
- RSCA's work plan varies from year to year and is formulated by the Committee based on issues of concern to its members and issues brought to the committee by members of the faculty and administrative units. Issues RSCA has worked on in the past include:
 - Scholarly Productivity and Impact Metrics
 - Research Data Management
 - Undergraduate Research
 - Technology issues related to research, scholarship, and creative arts
 - Internal funding opportunities to support creative arts and humanities scholarship
 - Corporate and Foundation support for research, scholarship, and creative arts
 - Open access publishing
 - Interdisciplinary initiatives such as the Gund Institute for the Environment
 - Grant management

RSCA Chair

- In the spring semester, the Faculty Senate office will contact all current RSCA members to solicit nominations, including self-nominations, for Chair to serve during the upcoming academic term (beginning June 1st). Once nominations are received, the Faculty Senate office will conduct a vote on the nominated members and report the results to RSCA.
- The Chair shall report to the Senate at least once a year, schedule and conduct meetings, follow up on actions of the committee, and serve as committee spokesperson,
- The Chair shall serve as a voting member of the Faculty Senate,
- The Chair shall serve on the Senate Executive Council.
- The Chair shall serve as faculty representative to the Board of Trustees Educational Policy and Institutional Resource Committee.
- The Chair shall serve as a liaison to the Library Advisory Committee.

Continuous Improvement & Reporting

- At the end of the spring semester, the RSCA Chair will prepare a summary report to be submitted to the Faculty Senate describing the work of the committee during the academic year.
- At least once annually, RSCA should review its operating procedures, propose specific changes if needed, and submit to the Senate Executive Council for review and approval.

4. Libraries Update, Dean Bryn Geffert. COVID-19 shut down the physical library when the university closed, however library employees worked hard to make sure the services were still available to the community. They put in place curbside service along with added online resources.

As of the first day of classes all three library buildings have been reopened. Special collections is open in an appointment only capacity. The Howe Library is open with a reduced capacity, 225 occupants at one time. Generally, this space sees up to 600 community members, however so far this semester this has not been an issue. They have hired temporary employees to monitor capacity and have not been close to hitting the 225 capacity. The libraries have a top commitment to students so if they start to get close to capacity students would get preferential access. They are hoping this will not be an issue. Curbside services will continue throughout the fall semester.

The libraries had to make a 5% budget cut; about a \$750,000 reduction. With the current decrease in tuition revenue they are bracing for further cuts. The hiring freeze has been a challenge as they have 8 open positions.

Interlibrary loans were difficult to get this summer because of the number of universities shut down. This fall most universities have reopened so interlibrary loans are mostly back to normal.

Talks about the Elsevier contract are continuing and Dean Geffert will update the committee as this unfolds. He is happy to speak to interested groups around campus.

5. Chair Update.

- **UVM Sponsored Programs.** Record awards for FY20: \$181,675,417 (add link to full report).
- **UVM Research Advisory Committee.** Mary will be representing the RSCA on this committee and will offer frequent updates.
- **UVM Strong** Mary represents the RSCA on the UVM Strong Research and Graduate Education working group. For more information visit the website at <https://www.uvm.edu/returntocampus/uvmstrong-fall-2020-advisory-committee>.
- **New OPR Programs.** The committee discussed new programs and will provided some feedback to the new VP of Research, Kirk Dombrowski. VP Dombrowski will be a guest at a future meeting to continue these discussions. Committee members are encouraged to send any suggestions to Mary or the Faculty Senate Office.
- **Academic Freedom.** Jill Preston will take a look at the provided information and will review it on behalf of the RSCA.

6. 2020/21 Agenda. We reviewed a list of agenda items.

7. New Business. There was no new business at this meeting.

8. Old Business. There was no old business at this meeting.

9. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

The next meeting of the RSCA will take place on Thursday, October 8th at 12:30 on Microsoft Teams.