Faculty Senate President Thomas Borchert called the meeting to order at 8:30 am via Microsoft Teams.

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of the March 2024 SAC meeting were approved as written.

2. **Chair Update.** The following terms will end on June 30th, 2024, Denise Hersey (LIB), Devika Singh (LCOM), and Matthew Carlson (CAS). Denise and Devika will be stepping off the SAC, Matthew has been reelected by CAS and will continue to serve.

3. **Residential Life Update, Charles Holmes-Hope.** Director Holmes-Hope provided the committee with the following presentation. For a copy of the presentation please e-mail the Faculty Senate Office at facsen@uvm.edu. Some of the questions the committee had included:

   a. Learning communities and what is being done to support the individual thematic goals for the different communities.
      - Working with J. Dickinson to create shared learning experiences.
      - Have started to assess these experiences.
      - Providing study spaces for students.

   b. Access to administration and what initiatives can be started to increase interactions.
      - Chat with Charles / Engage with Charles is a way for Charles to meet with students.
      - Charles walks the halls, rides the bus and lives on campus as a way of being more accessible to students.
c. Tiered Housing System.
   - UVM has not raised room and board in the last six years.
   - UVM has the lowest room and board fees among their peer universities.
   - Students can apply to have the increase waived.
   - There is concern that the tiered system conflicts with equity.
   - The system for singles, doubles and triples is already in place with a tiered pricing system. Residential Life struggled with the idea that the students who live in the newer, nicer buildings should pay the same fees as someone who lives in the well-worn facilities.

d. Housing Development by Dorset St.
   - Will be called Catamount East; it is for upper class students (juniors and seniors).
   - It will have 4 RAs and one full time director.
   - It will house 143 students.

e. Forced Triples
   - 40% of students will be in a triple.
   - Some students prefer triples and they have received a decrease in complaints.
   - UVM has worked to be more upfront to students about triples.

4. How the Dean’s List and Latin Honors are calculated, Veronika Carter. Veronika presented the following slides to the committee.

**Dean’s List and Latin Honors at UVM**

- **Dean’s List**
  - Dean’s list status is awarded to full-time undergraduate students with a cumulative grade-point average of not less than 3.00 who stood in the top 20 percent of each class of their college/school during the preceding semester.
  - GPA cutoffs are not released.

- **Latin Honors**
  - Within the graduating class of each college/school, students in the top one percent will receive summa cum laude; the following three percent will receive magna cum laude; the next six percent will receive cum laude. The total number of honors awarded will not exceed ten percent of the graduating class of each college/school.
  - To be considered, a student must have taken at least sixty credits at UVM in which a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F has been awarded.
  - GPA cutoffs are not released.
Other New England Land Grant Institutions

- **UConn:**
  - **Dean's List:** percentages are different between the colleges - students need to be in the upper quartile of their school or college.
  - **Latin Honors:** at least a 3.0 GPA and a class rank in the 75th percentile or above in the student’s school or college for Cum Laude; at least a 3.4 GPA and a class rank in the 85th percentile or above for Magna Cum Laude; at least a 3.7 GPA and a class rank in the 95th percentile or above for Summa Cum Laude.

- **UMaine:**
  - **Dean's List:** 3.5 minimum GPA and full-time course load.
  - **Latin Honors:** cumulative GPA of 3.30 for Cum Laude; 3.50 for Magna Cum Laude; 3.70 for Summa Cum Laude.

- **UMass:**
  - **Dean's List:** 3.5 minimum GPA and full-time course load.
  - **Latin Honors:** cumulative GPA of 3.25 - 3.499 for Cum Laude; 3.50 – 3.849 for Magna Cum Laude; 3.85 – 4.0 for Summa Cum Laude.

- **UNH:**
  - **Dean's List:** 3.5 minimum GPA and full-time course load.
  - **Latin Honors:** cumulative GPA of 3.5 – 3.84 for Cum Laude or Magna Cum Laude; 3.85 – 4.0 for Summa Cum Laude.

- **URI:**
  - **Dean's List:** 3.3 minimum GPA and full-time course load.
  - **Latin Honors:** cumulative GPA of 3.30 for Cum Laude; 3.50 for Magna Cum Laude; 3.70 for Summa Cum Laude.

Additional Institutions

- **Boston University:**
  - **Dean’s List:** Differs slightly by College/School but in general requires 3.5 minimum GPA and full-time course load.
  - **Latin Honors:** Awarded to the top 30% of the class:
    - Summa Cum Laude: Top 5%
    - Magna Cum Laude: Next 10%
    - Cum Laude: Next 15%

- **Cornell:**
  - **Dean’s List:** phasing out individual school and college Dean’s Lists. The Dean’s List designation will not be applicable to undergraduate students matriculating in Summer 2023 and beyond. The Dean’s List will be discontinued for all students at the end of the Spring 2026 semester.
  - **Latin Honors:** cumulative GPA of 3.75 for Cum Laude; 3.85 for Magna Cum Laude; 4.0 for Summa Cum Laude. Beginning with the December 2026 conferral date, will institute a standardized Latin Honors system based solely on final cumulative undergraduate GPA: Summa Cum Laude (top 5%), Magna Cum Laude (next 10%), and Cum Laude (next 15%).
Additional Institutions

- Last fall, University of Pennsylvania also stopped releasing deans’ lists in an effort to reduce students’ academic stress. [Cornell and Penn stop publishing deans’ lists (insidehighered.com)]

- Brown University hasn’t had a dean’s list since the late 1960s. Harvard last published a dean’s list in 2002.

UVM Latin Honors GPA Cutoffs

- **May 2022 Latin Honors:**

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<th>CHNS</th>
<th>GSB</th>
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- **May 2023 Latin Honors:**

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# UVM Dean’s List GPA Cutoff Sp22-Fa23

## UVM Dean’s List if GPA Cutoff is 3.7
### UVM Dean’s List if GPA Cutoff is 3.6

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### UVM Dean’s List if GPA Cutoff is 3.5

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Items for consideration

- Should we consider expanding the cutoff (Dean’s List to 25% and Latin Honors to 20%) to be more inclusive?
- Do we move to a GPA cutoff? If so, would it be the same for each School/College? Depending on the determined cut, it could increase numbers for some, but lower numbers for others. A wider percentage would increase numbers for each School/College.
- If we move to a GPA cutoff, what should it be? Lowering it to a 3.50 would certainly provide the honor to a much greater number of students, but how many is too many?
- If we move to a greater percentage, like 25% for Deans’ List, the GPA will shift each semester and students will not know the GPA in advance and will be competing against each other, as earning Dean’s List becomes relative to the academic performance of their peers.
- If we keep Dean’s List or Latin Honors as currently stated in the catalogue, but we move to advertising the respective GPA cutoffs, then we very likely will be fielding questions about why the GPAs are so high and is it due to grade inflation.

The committee had the following comments and concerns.

a. The committee discussed grade inflation and how it impacts both Dean’s List and Latin Honors.
b. Could there be a change in the way a A+ is represented.
c. What are the advantages in assigning these honors, doesn’t your GPA stand on its own.
d. Veronika will research if other institutions have changed to the GPA from a percentage and UVM just has not made that change or if they have always done it based on a GPA.
e. Having a GPA as the guideline offers clarity and takes away a lot of the guessing.
f. Thomas will investigate the nature of the senate discussions around A+ over the last ten years.
g. It was suggested to change the Dean’s list and leave the Latin Honors the same.

Thomas suggests the SAC discuss this at the May meeting so that they have the information needed to take this up in the fall.

5. Old / New Business. There was no old / new business at this meeting.

The SAC was adjourned at 10:00a.m. The next meeting of the SAC will be on May 2, 2024, at 8:30am on Microsoft Teams.