



FACULTY SENATE

Student Affairs Committee

Minutes

December 3, 2020

8:30-10:00

Microsoft Teams

- Present** Kenneth Allen (CNHS), Sin Yee Chan (CAS), Thomas Chittenden (Faculty Senate President), Terry Delaney (CALs), Jonathan Flyer (LCoM), Steve Gove (GSB), Patricia Mardeusz (LIB), Jennifer Prue (CESS), Kris Stepenuck (RSENR), Berke Tinaz (GSA), Sarah Twitchell (LCoM), Scott Van Keuren (CAS)
- Absent** Charlie Borah (SGA), William Louisos (CEMS)
- Guests** Annie Stevens

Co-Chair Jennifer Prue called the meeting to order at 8:30 am via Microsoft Teams.

- 1. Minutes.** The minutes of November 5, 2020 were approved with no changes.
- 2. Student Concerns, SGA** There was no representation of the Student Government Association at this meeting. The committee would like to move this agenda item to a future meeting to ensure that student concerns are addressed. The Faculty Senate Office has sent an invitation to the SGA president for the January meeting.
- 3. Black-Lives-Matter Resolution.** At the November meeting of the SAC this was the initial Black-Lives-Matter Resolution that was presented to the committee (Ver 1, below).

Resolution In Support Of Black Lives Matter (Ver 1)

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter, the truth of which all citizens hold to be self-evident.

WHEREAS, the faculty have shown a willingness to grow by acknowledging our responsibility to clearly and publicly support the worldwide movement for racial justice.

WHEREAS, although the majority of our campus community is white, there is diversity in our community.

WHEREAS, the faculty supports the rights of all people and recognizes the need to show Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in our community that we support them, that we acknowledge the

struggles they have faced, and that we seek to set a standard for all people to respect these members of our community.

WHEREAS, the administration has acknowledged a commitment to the value of Justice in its *Our Common Ground* statement which calls on the UVM community to “unite against all forms of injustice”.

WHEREAS, we wish to show support to the Black Lives Matter movement by acknowledging the long history of racism in our country and the continued need for change, recognizing that change will not come solely from awareness of racism but from both discussion and action not just from within our government but also from our institutions of higher education which have the power to be transformative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont support the Black Lives Matter movement and call on the University administration to display a ‘Black Lives Matter’ flag and a ‘Black Lives Matter’ sign in front of the Davis Center on the University of Vermont campus indefinitely or until such time as the faculty, through the Faculty Senate, approve of the removal of the sign and the flag.

The committee did not pass this resolution.

At the December SAC meeting, Terry presented a revised draft resolution (Ver 2, below) to the SAC for consideration.

Resolution In Support Of Black Lives Matter (Ver 2)

WHEREAS, The Black Lives Matter Movement has at its heart, a strong message that acknowledges the value, contributions, and promise of African-Americans, and decries racial inequality;

WHEREAS, The African-American community has been victimized by systemic racism;

WHEREAS, the faculty has a responsibility to embody a culture of equality and respect for all, by expressing clearly and publicly its support for the global movement toward racial justice;

WHEREAS, the faculty defends the rights of all people and acknowledges the struggles faced by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC);

WHEREAS, the faculty wishes to demonstrate its support to the Black Lives Matter movement by acknowledging the long history of racism in our country and the pressing need for change, recognizing that systemic change will not come solely from awareness of racism, but from dialogue and action within our government and our institutions of higher education, which have the power to be transformative;

WHEREAS, the administration has pledged their commitment to Justice in its *Our Common Ground* statement that calls on the UVM community to “unite against all forms of injustice”; and

WHEREAS, the administration has pledged to give “stewardship over the third flagpole at the Davis Center” to the Student Government Association (SGA)*, an offer acknowledged here to have been made without input from the Faculty Senate (*Sept. 29, 2020 memo, from President and Provost);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont supports the Black Lives Matter movement and calls on the University administration to display a ‘Black Lives Matter’ flag in front of the Davis Center on the University of Vermont campus at all times except when the SGA and the Faculty Senate agree to temporarily honor other groups viewed to have suffered from injustice.

After discussion, Terry motioned to update the resolution (Ver 3, below) and Kris seconded the motion.

Approved: 8 Opposed: 2 Abstain: 0

The update to the resolution was approved.

Changes between Ver 2 and Ver 3: *Be it resolved* statement:

removed: “*except when the SGA and the Faculty Senate agree*”;

replaced: “viewed to” to “have”

adds: “They further support the role of the SGA in establishing a flag policy that honors these groups.”

replaces: “calls on the University administration to” to “recommends that”).

Berke motioned to further update the draft of the resolution (Ver 3, below). Kris seconded the motion.

Approved: 8 Opposed: 1 Abstain: 1

The update to the resolution was approved.

Resolution In Support Of Black Lives Matter (Ver 3)

WHEREAS, The Black Lives Matter Movement has at its heart, a strong message that acknowledges the value, contributions, and promise of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and decries racial inequality;

WHEREAS, The BIPOC community has been victimized by systemic racism;

WHEREAS, the faculty has a responsibility to embody a culture of equality and respect for all, by expressing clearly and publicly its support for the global movement toward racial justice;

WHEREAS, the faculty defends the rights of all people and acknowledges the struggles faced by BIPOC persons;

WHEREAS, the faculty wishes to demonstrate its support to the Black Lives Matter movement by acknowledging the long history of racism in our country and the pressing need for change, recognizing that systemic change will not come solely from awareness of racism, but from dialogue and action within our government and our institutions of higher education, which have the power to be transformative;

WHEREAS, the administration has pledged their commitment to Justice in its *Our Common Ground* statement that calls on the UVM community to “unite against all forms of injustice”; and

WHEREAS, the administration has pledged to give “stewardship over the third flagpole at the Davis Center” to the Student Government Association (Sept. 29, 2020 memo, from President and Provost);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont supports the Black Lives Matter movement and recommends that a BLM flag fly at all times except when honoring other groups that have suffered from injustice. They further support the role of the SGA in establishing a flag policy that honors these groups.

Additional discussion led to Version 4 (below):

Change: “BIPOC” substituted for “African-American”.

Time was short. Steve motioned that the below resolution (Ver 4) be tabled for a future meeting, Berke seconded the motion.

Approved: 9 Opposed: 1 Abstain: 0

The resolution will be put on the January agenda for consideration.

Resolution In Support Of Black Lives Matter (Ver 4)

WHEREAS, The Black Lives Matter Movement has at its heart, a strong message that acknowledges the value, contributions, and promise of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and decries racial inequality;

WHEREAS, The BIPOC community has been victimized by systemic racism;

WHEREAS, the faculty has a responsibility to embody a culture of equality and respect for all, by expressing clearly and publicly its support for the global movement toward racial justice;

WHEREAS, the faculty defends the rights of all people and acknowledges the struggles faced by BIPOC persons;

WHEREAS, the faculty wishes to demonstrate its support to the Black Lives Matter movement by acknowledging the long history of racism in our country and the pressing need for change, recognizing that systemic change will not come solely from awareness of racism, but from dialogue and action within our government and our institutions of higher education, which have the power to be transformative;

WHEREAS, the administration has pledged their commitment to Justice in its *Our Common Ground* statement that calls on the UVM community to “unite against all forms of injustice”; and

WHEREAS, the administration has pledged to give “stewardship over the third flagpole at the Davis Center” to the Student Government Association (Sept. 29, 2020 memo, from President and Provost);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont supports the Black Lives Matter movement and recommends that a BLM flag fly at all times except when honoring other groups that have suffered from injustice. They further support the role of the SGA in establishing a flag policy that honors these groups.

- 4. New Business.** Please e-mail Jennifer of Terry if there is anything that you would like to add to a future SAC agenda.

The SAC was adjourned at 10:00am. The next meeting of the SAC will be on January 14, 2021 at 8:30am on Microsoft Teams.