



FACULTY SENATE

Research, Scholarship & The Creative Arts Committee
September 8, 2016 Minutes
427A Waterman

Present: Chris Burns (LIB), Rachele Gould (RSENR), Seth Fritz (CNHS), Tammy Kolbe (CESS), Jeffery Marshall (CEMS), David Neiweem (CAS), Cathy Paris (FS President), Brian Tobin (GSS), Rory Waterman (CAS), Albert van der Vliet (COM), Matthew Price (CAS)

Absent: Dan Baker (CALs), Daniel Hudson (EXT), Beth Kirkpatrick* (COM), Chuck Schitzlein (Business),

Guests: Cindy Forehand

Chair Chris Burns called the meeting to order at 12:30pm in 427A Waterman.

1. **Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes of May 19, 2016 were approved as written.
2. **Introductions:** Chair Chris Burns welcomed the new members, introductions were made.
3. **Graduate College Update:** Dean Forehand will be a guest at the October meeting to go further into these topics.
 - A. Working with Human Resources to bring salaries up.
 - B. Will be looking across the board at curriculum for all graduate courses.
 - C. Survey of graduate students to get a better understanding of their experiences. Still developing survey to ensure good data.
 - D. There will be a lot of new awards starting this year.
 - E. Developing a small pot of money for small research grants in the Graduate College.

4. **Overview of Committee Business:** The RSCA is tasked with recommending both Burack Lecturers and University Distinguished Professors to university administration. There are also a range of other areas that the RSCA could tackle within their charge.

The committee came up with a list of topics for the RSCA to work on for the 2016-2017 academic year.

- Faculty Recognition
- SPA discussions including grant processes
 - What SPA will do, and what faculty needs to do
 - Streamlining the process
 - SPA training and education
- A program to recruit minority graduate students
- Interdisciplinary projects with the creative arts
- Creative arts based summit, how to engage this faculty
- Data management
 - The committee would like to invite guests who have previously worked on this topic.

Chris Burns will make a list of the SPA related topics that the committee can review and add onto.

The graduate students are just starting to meet and as they have issues, Brian Tobin will bring those forward to the RSCA.

5. **Institute for the Environment proposal.** Faculty Senate President Cathy Paris presented the proposal as the chair of the review committee.

We have reviewed a proposal for a new, University-wide Environmental Institute, submitted by Professor Taylor Ricketts, Director of the Gund Institute of Ecological Economics and Professor of Natural Resources in the Rubenstein School. Dr. Ricketts will serve as Program Director of the Institute, which will report directly to the Provost. It is anticipated that the new Institute will be launched in the Fall of 2016.

Description and Rationale

The proposed Environmental Institute is a University-wide research endeavor, whose mission it is to mobilize scholars and leaders to understand and work to develop solutions to the world's critical environmental problems. The three major elements of its strategy are to: 1) *catalyze* transdisciplinary research; 2) *connect* UVM with the state, national and global communities; and 3) *solve* critical environmental problems. It will focus on several strategic themes and promote collaboration among scholars at UVM and beyond. The Institute will be instrumental in drawing together UVM's strengths and generating new synergies for transdisciplinary research and problem solving.

The RSCA voted in favor of supporting the proposal.

6. New Business: No new business at this time.

*Sabbatical

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02pm.

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