

Report (2016/2017)

Research, Scholarship and the Creative Arts Committee UVM Faculty Senate May 15, 2017

Membership of the Committee:

The Committee membership included Dan Baker, Chris Burns (Chair), Seth Frieze, Rachelle Gould, Daniel Hudson, Beth Kirkpatrick, Tammy Kolbe, Jeffrey Marshall, David Neiweem, Matthew Price, Chuck Schitzlein, Jessica Sheehe (GSS), Brian Tobin (GSS), Albert van der Vliet, and Rory Waterman. In addition, many of the meetings were attended by the President of the Faculty Senate, Cathy Paris, the Vice President for Research, Richard Galbraith, and the Dean of the Graduate College Cindy Forehand.

The Committee met on 9 occasions, the first being September 8, 2016 and the last being May 11, 2017.

- **Research Data Management:** This has been the main topic of discussion for RSCA this year. Elizabeth Berman presented her survey results on this topic at our November meeting and we authored a Senate resolution to charge an administrative/faculty joint committee to come up with a plan for addressing this issue. The Faculty Senate endorsed the Resolution, also endorsed by the Educational and Research Technologies Committee, at the February 27 Senate meeting. The Provost has charged a joint faculty/administration committee on Data Management. The Senate Resolution can be found at the end of this report.
- **Creative Arts:** Creative Arts was added more formally to the charge of RSCA a couple of years ago, and has a representative to the committee. David Neiweem, from Music, has been leading a discussion in the committee to help us understand what creative arts at UVM looks like, what some of their concerns might be, and how we might address these in the Senate. Kelley Helmstutler Di Dio (Arts and Sciences) and Elizabeth Fenton (Humanities Center) joined us at our May 2017 meeting to give us their perspective on this topic.
- **Sponsored Programs Administration:** Richard Galbraith provided an update on the search process for the permanent Associate VP for Research Administration. Galbraith also provided an update on the discussion around updating or replacing the InfoEd electronic research administration software system. The system being considered is called “Click” Electronic Research Administration. UVM and the UVM Medical Center would partner to purchase the system. Post award management would continue to utilize PeopleSoft. The cost of installing and converting the system is still unknown.

Carol Zuiches, Interim Associate VP for Research Administration, came out of retirement to fill the role at UVM. Carol provided an overview of her vision for

research administration, which includes experts in the office, and good compliance. Some of the areas that are being addressed were recommendations from a recent study of Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA) at UVM, and include:

- Exploring a better Electronic Research Administration System by talking with other institutions that have converted from InfoEd to Click.
- Adjusting salaries for SPA staff to improve recruitment and retention. SPA is now almost fully staffed for the first time in 7 years.
- Partnering with HR for managerial training for supervisors
- Improving communication to departments and colleges about their awards.
- Hiring consultants to review and recommend process improvements.
- Benchmarking with other institutions on a number of processes, including staffing, turn-around times, etc.

A Town Hall meeting was held on February 28th to provide an opportunity for SPA to share information, initiatives and updates on changes and efforts they are making to processes and procedures to be more efficient, simpler and user friendly.

Richard Galbraith is forming an oversight committee for SPA. The committee will be predominately faculty. This will provide a feedback loop on the changes.

- **Graduate College:** Cynthia Forehand reports that the Graduate College is now offering awards for Outstanding Master's Thesis and Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation. These awards will be selected by the Graduate Executive Committee. The Graduate College has also started a fund to help pay for costs associated with research, typically for small research projects not tied to grant funding.
- **Pre-Master's Program:** Cindy Forehand (Dean of the Graduate College), Becky Houle (International Student Services), and Jessica Sheehe (Graduate Writing Center and Graduate Student Senate representative on RSCA) gave an update on the Pre-Master's Program. This is a new international student program designed to prepare students for graduate level study at UVM. There are six Master's programs affiliated in the first year, all in CEMS. There are currently 10 students enrolled. The students work closely with Becky Houle in the Graduate College and with the Graduate Writing Center. As the program ramps up, it will need to grow in order to be sustainable. There is some evidence that international applications are down as a result of the current political climate in the US, which could have an impact on UVM's ability to grow this program. They are adding three new Master's programs to the list of options for these Pre-Master's students for the second year.
- **Libraries:** Mara Saule gave an update on the Libraries at our November meeting, focusing on the newly created Library Advisory Committee, weeding projects, and building projects at Bailey/Howe, Dana, and Billings.
- **Office of the Vice President for Research:** Richard Galbraith gave an overview of research and scholarship at UVM during FY 2015
 - Faculty wrote 1,200 grant proposals
 - 700 new and continuing awards received

- Total research funding was \$101 million
 - Enrolled 1371 graduate students at UVM
 - UVM Faculty published over 665 scholarly articles
 - 7 US patents were granted.
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- **Burack Distinguished Lectures:** The committee reviewed nominations for this lecture series in the fall and the spring.

 - **University Distinguished Professors:** The committee evaluated this year's nominations for University Distinguished Professor awards and made recommendations to the Provost's office.

 - **Institute for the Environment Review:** Representing RSCA, Chris Burns was appointed to a committee charged with reviewing a proposal to create an Institute for the Environment at UVM. The committee reviewed the proposal, brought it to Curricular Affairs and RSCA for further feedback, and the full Senate approved the proposal at its September 25 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Burns
May 15, 2017

University of Vermont Research Data Management Resolution

Whereas

Researchers in all disciplines are faced with a range of data management needs as research becomes more collaborative, data-intensive, and computational,

And data management requires a long-term commitment to a storage environment where the security of sensitive data and the integrity of all research data is ensured,

And data sharing and re-use increase the accountability, visibility, impact, and return on investment in research,

And the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has directed federal agencies to mandate that digitally formatted research data, to the extent feasible and consistent with applicable law and policy, should be stored and publicly accessible to search, retrieve, and analyze,

And most large Federal funding agencies (NIH, NSF, DOE, DOT, NASA, DOD, CDC, NOAA, USDA, USGS) now require data management plans for the preservation and access of research data,

And current practices at UVM, assembled on an ad hoc basis, do not meet current user needs or look forward in support of strategic initiatives and goals,

And an institutional commitment to providing technical expertise and support services is required to meet researcher needs, funding imperatives, and public policy goals,

Therefore be it resolved that the University of Vermont should

- Charge a joint Administration/Faculty Senate committee (drawing from relevant units such as the University Libraries, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and Enterprise Technology Services, and faculty representatives from likely user groups) to develop a programmatic and financial plan by October, 2017 to provide the University with core services and tools for managing data throughout the data life cycle.

Following the creation of this plan, the University of Vermont should

- Promote these services and tools and encourage faculty to use them to manage and share their data.
- Provide ongoing financial support to the units providing services and tools, including support for the infrastructure, personnel, education, and training.
- Develop a research data management policy, establishing the University's commitment to long term data management.