

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

September 15, 2021

Video Conference on Microsoft Teams

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Richard Branda, Stephen Cutler, Ruth Farrell, Alan Gotlieb, Michael Gurdon, Dwight Matthews, Beth Mintz, Jack McCormack, Rachel Johnson, Mara Saule, Lee Thompson, Judith Van Houten, Taka Ashikaga

Absent: none

Call to Order: Chair Michael Gurdon called the meeting to order at 2:01pm

1. Minutes of August 18, 2021, approved as submitted
2. RFAO Board Meeting
 - a. Chair Gurdon welcomed Taka Ashikaga to the Board as a new member
 - b. Faculty Senate Report (Mara Saule)
 - i. The Faculty Senate meetings of 9/20/21 and 11/15/21 will be attended by Rachel Johnson
 - ii. Faculty Senate President Thomas Borchert, Professor of Religion, outlined three priorities and two goals for the Senate in the upcoming academic year. Priorities for Senate participation are:
 1. The University's Academic reorganization process
 2. The next phase of the General Education system (a.k.a., "Catamount Core"), scheduled for Fall 2023 implementation, and the continued evolution of the Residential Learning Communities
 3. The Senate's Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee's work.
 4. Goals are 1) to have significant Senate involvement in The UVM budgeting process, particularly what is actually spent as opposed to budgeted, and 2) University strategic planning.
 - iii. President Garimella addressed the Senate, outlining recent accomplishments: COVID challenges and successes, enrollment increases, research and research funding accomplishments, innovative teaching transitions, engagement with Vermonters and Vermont businesses, and success in fund-raising goals. Of particular note was Pres. Garimella's announcement that the \$2021 President's Distinguished University Citizenship and Service Award" recipient is Lawrence G. Shelton, PhD, Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies Emeritus, Department of Leadership & Developmental Sciences, College of Education and Social Services, thereby recognizing the extraordinary work of faculty who are now emeritus.
 - c. United Academics update (Beth Mintz) UVM staff voted to unionize and the first bargaining session was today. The union recommended that the University mandate COVID vaccinations for all staff and faculty.
 - d. Retiree access to UVM resources.
 - i. Chair Gurdon reminded the Board that this has been an issue for more than 2 years. More recently the Board met again with Richard Cate and Simeon Ananou, but promised answers were not forthcoming from them to questions raised in July and August. After further enquiry by Chair Gurdon he received from Simeon a draft Q&A list for retirees, which is being revised and should be available next month for placement on the HR and RFAO web sites. It will address emeriti access to email accounts, VPN, MyUVM, Teams, the Banner Student Information System and UVM software as well as technical support.

- ii. During discussion by the Board, it was noted that although 113 retirees have access to VPN, VPN and MyUVM access is not more widely available. In some cases VPN is needed for library access. There was concern also about possible restrictions to UVM email and NetID for retirees. The Board recommended that United Academics leadership be alerted since there may be a contract issue.
- e. Mechanism for identification of future administrative officer members (Dwight Matthews). To date only Officers of Administration have been included in RFAO membership and Board participation but they were not routinely notified of eligibility. To be more inclusive, Gary Derr and Jim Vigoreaux agreed to notify eligible members twice per year. The Board then discussed whether to include Classified Executives (who report to Officers of Administration) and lower level administrators in membership. The question was raised as to who the organization represents. Following this discussion, It was concluded that the Officers Handbook may be the best guide for inclusion of administrators in the RFAO.
- f. Revisions to the RFAO Constitution. Chair Gurdon reported that the current draft revision addressed most or all issues raised. One further change he suggested to the draft is that in Article 5, amendments to the constitution be warned in 3 rather than 2 weeks before the meeting. Chair Gurdon then moved for approval of the changes to the Constitution and then the amended Constitution be forwarded to the membership. Jack McCormack seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Judy Van Houten will provide a track change copy to Chair Gurdon.
- g. Slate of candidates for Board election. The Board needs to announce new elections to the membership and solicit nominations for Officers of the Board and 5 elected Board members.
- h. The 2021 annual membership meeting. Chair Gurdon scheduled the meeting for Friday, November 5, 2021, from 3-4:30 pm. Waterman Memorial Lounge is available if needed. The Board felt that a hybrid meeting might be optimal, but it would be best done on ZOOM rather than Teams. There was a question whether technical support for this would be available in Memorial Lounge.
- i. Ideas for guests to invite to upcoming Board meetings.
 - i. Bryn Geffert, Dean of Libraries, October 20th, to discuss library access.
 - ii. Greg Paradiso, possibly Nov. 17th, to review health insurance and other HR issues.
- j. Other business. Jim Vigoreaux informed Chair Gurdon that the President has approved reinstatement of the Retired Scholars program, and that \$8,000 will be allocated. Applications will be evaluated by Jack McCormack and Beth Mintz as in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38pm

The next meeting is scheduled for: **October 20, 2021, at 2pm** as a Video Conference

Respectfully submitted, Richard Branda