

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

**March 16, 2022**

Video Conference on Microsoft Teams

### MINUTES

**Present:** Taka Ashikaga, Richard Branda, Stephen Cutler, Ruth Farrell, Alan Gotlieb, Michael Gurdon, Judith Van Houten, Rachel Johnson, Dwight Matthews, Beth Mintz, Alison Pechenick, Mara Saule

**Absent:** Jack McCormack, Lee Thompson

**Call to Order:** Chair Michael Gurdon called the meeting to order at 2:03pm

1. Minutes of February 16, 2022, approved as amended
2. RFAO Board Meeting
  - a. Faculty Senate Report (Mara Saule): Meeting of February 28, 2022
    - i. The Department of Geography was renamed to be Dept of Geography and Geosciences; Geology faculty will move to the newly renamed department. BA, BS, and minor in Geology were deactivated and other programs moved to the new department.
    - ii. Discussion, resolution, and nearly unanimous vote in support of UVM joining the State Colleges in legislation to include 2 faculty and 2 staff to their respective boards of trustees. There will need to be more discussion internally about which specific cohorts of UVM faculty and staff would be eligible to serve since the bill currently applies to represented faculty and staff and does not include the medical school.
    - iii. Discussion of an undergraduate student enrollment/recruitment report from an outside consulting firm, Art & Science Group. They sought to understand perceptions of UVM in the prospective first-year student market so that UVM can better attract and enroll an increasingly bright and diverse student population. UVM's challenges include a range of competitors, half of which are higher-ranked national universities; the perception that UVM is a "safety school" even among enrollees; lack of ability to explore career or graduate school interests; UVM lacks a high-quality academic experience; a campus culture that is not seen as serious about academics.
  - b. UA update (Beth Mintz). The sense was that S.248 to add faculty and staff to trustee boards would not pass this session. There will be further discussion of who would be eligible to serve. It was noted that nursing school faculty are underpaid and hard to recruit. UA is interested in facilitating an increase in the number of nursing school faculty.
  - c. Board of Trustees Letter & Status (Beth Mintz). Beth sent a letter to her Chair regarding the issue of access to software by retired faculty. The letter will be forwarded to the Dean.
  - d. Membership Eligibility (Dwight Matthews). There is agreement that administrators included in the Officers Handbook should be included in RFAO while those included

in the staff handbook would not be. However the eligibility of classified managers is still unclear. Generally anyone evaluated by “green sheets” has been eligible but it has been difficult to further divide classified managers. There will be further discussion with Gary Derr.

- e. Thoughts on Spring/Early Summer luncheon. Chair Gurdon noted that the University is dropping the mask mandate on University property and community COVID regulations are relaxing. He raised the question of whether RFAO should consider resuming in-person luncheons with an invited speaker. One possibility would be to find an outdoor venue. Another possibility is to combine a luncheon and speaker with the annual meeting in the fall.
- f. Ideas for Guests in Coming Months. Because members continue to encounter issues and problems with the new health plan, Pam Getsie will attend the April meeting and bring along an operations manager to problem-solve. It appears that our plan is still being confused with other plans in terms of coverage and informational mailings. The President of the UVM Foundation may be invited to a future meeting to discuss the potential impact of limited retiree access to software on fund-raising and development. Also being considered is inviting Deans to discuss their strategic plans.
- g. New Business.
  - i. A question was raised whether retired faculty would be interested in joining the COTS walk on May 1<sup>st</sup> for team-building. This could be discussed further electronically on the forum.
  - ii. The parking permits expire June 30th. In the past these were physically renewed at the spring luncheon meeting. Instead now they are being renewed digitally but the process for our members needs to be clarified.
  - iii. A draft of Dr. Bruce Leavitt’s letter describing his difficulty with lack of access to software and its impact on his ability to do development work for the University was received by Chair Gurdon. The intent is to send the letter to President Garimella as an example of how software access can affect fund raising and legacies. Sending copies to the Dean of Medicine and the UVM Foundation are also possibilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18pm

The next meeting is scheduled for: **April 20, 2022, at 2pm as a Videoconference**

Respectfully submitted, Richard Branda