EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

August 17, 2022

Video Conference on Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

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

Absent: Taka Ashikaga, Jack McCormack, Beth Mintz, Lee Thompson

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

1. Minutes of May 18, 2022, approved.
2. RFAO Board Meeting
   a. Faculty Senate Report (Saule)
      i. The next meeting is August 29, 2022, and probably not hybrid
      ii. Mara is unable to attend the September 19th meeting and will need a replacement.
      iii. May 19th meeting: attendance was good; degrees were conferred.
         1. There was discussion of the motion to deactivate the Physical Education (grades PreK-12) B.S. Ed. There is a limited number of faculty in the program and the program does not support graduates receiving a health education endorsement and thus could not teach in Vermont. The motion passed.
         2. There was a resolution regarding critical race theory, in support of colleagues, to oppose limiting curriculum and education about racism.
         3. There was a resolution to extend test optional admissions through spring 2027 to gather more data about its effects.
         4. The academic reorganization report passed for further consideration.
         5. There were committee reports.
         6. Thomas Chittenden reported on the effort to reconfigure the Board of Trustees and encouraged continued attention going forward.
         7. Elizabeth Palchak, Director of Sustainability, shared a Comprehensive Sustainability Plan that will guide sustainability at UVM with short- and long-term goals.
   b. United Academics Update: There will be a renewed effort to add faculty to the Board of Trustees. Having an executive director has been helpful.
      1. There evidently are a range of medications that are not part of the formulary but might be covered with preauthorization. In some cases this may be needed yearly. Over the counter medications (OTC) are not officially covered but some can be if a provider prescribes them. This is not publicized by BC/BS, and it doesn’t have a list of drugs that might be covered. There is a need to communicate with our members on how to
proceed. A request for such a list is probably best done through UVM Human Resources.

2. Currently there is duplicate coverage of eye refractions. There should be lowered cost by eliminating the annual refraction coverage from the VSP vision policy.

3. The drug formulary is not applicable to retirees in some cases.

4. The benefits list that is used by representatives is for 2022, but the list available to members is for 2021. The two lists are not identical in all cases and can cause confusion when members call BC/BS. The 2022 document is available at: https://www.vermontblueadvantage.com/member-resources

5. It was recommended that a communication come from UVM HR to all retirees covered by the plan. Ruth Farrell will draft a letter regarding the drug issue and possible steps to navigate with VBA which can be offered to Greg Paradiso at our next meeting.

6. Members should consider sharing on the forum which OTC meds might be paid for by VBA.

d. Discussion of Timing and Format of Annual General Meeting/Fall Luncheon. Chair Gurdon will need to coordinate with Provost’s Office. It may be held in Memorial Lounge again this year. A speaker for the general meeting is planned, and several possible invitees were discussed. Once a date is finalized Chair Gurdon will check speaker availability.

e. Ideas for Guests to be invited in Coming Months. As noted above, Greg Paradiso will be invited for 09/21/22. Jane Okech, who is Jim Vigoreaux’s replacement as the liaison to RFAO, will be invited to a future meeting.

f. Other Business.

1. The Retired Faculty Scholars Program will renew this year with a stipend of about $2,000 per application and a total fund of $8,000. An alert will be sent on the listserv for applications.

2. There was a discussion of whether future RFAO board meetings should continue by Video Conference or in person. There was concern that the usual meeting room is small and has poor ventilation. Can a larger room be identified?

3. There was a discussion of whether the RFAO board should do longer term planning and more to foster community building of the RFAO. Possibilities might include an on-line newsletter, volunteer activities, or a quarterly lecture series. This discussion may be developed further at a future meeting.

4. It was noted that some recent retirees are losing access to Microsoft 365 with loss of the annual subscription, which they now may have to cover themselves.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39pm

The next meeting is scheduled for: 09/21/2022

Respectfully submitted, Richard Branda