

**THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Chair Ron Lumbra, Vice Chair Cynthia Barnhart, Secretary John Bartholomew, Briar Alpert, David Aronoff, Otto Berkes, Robert Brennan, Kevin Christie, Frank Cioffi, John Dineen, Johannah Donovan, Carolyn Dwyer, President Suresh Garimella, Jodi Goldstein, Stephanie Jerome, Kisha Kalra, Donald McCree, Carol Ode, Ed Pagano, Lucy Rogers, Governor Phil Scott, Shap Smith, Berke Tinaz, Catherine Toll and Samuel Young

**Friday, June 4, 2021**

8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

*This meeting will be held remotely. If interested in listening in, please dial:  
1-802-489-6040; Conference ID: 347 524 820#  
For any technical issues or questions, please email [edickinson@uvm.edu](mailto:edickinson@uvm.edu)*

**REVISED AGENDA**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Enclosure/ Exemption</b>	<b>Discussion Leader(s)</b>	<b>Time</b>
	<b>Call to order</b>			<b>8:00 a.m.*</b>
1.	Approval of the February 5, 2021 meeting minutes	Attachment 1	Ron Lumbra	8:00-8:02
2.	Chair's report		Ron Lumbra	8:02-8:06
3.	President's report	Attachment 2	Suresh Garimella	8:06-8:10
4.	Governance leaders discussion regarding how they interact with and represent their constituencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff Council President</li> <li>• Alumni Association President</li> </ul>		Caleb Gilbert Afi Ahmadi	8:10-8:30
5.	Academic presentation – Contributions of UVM public health and infectious disease experts during the pandemic		Suresh Garimella Jan Carney Beth Kirkpatrick	8:30-9:00
6.	Academic reorganization update		David Jenemann	9:00-9:20
	<b>Motion to enter into executive session**</b>			
7.	Lease agreement	Contracts	Richard Cate	9:20-9:40
	<b>Motion to go out of executive session</b>			
8.	Other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Resolution authorizing lease with United States Government, USDA, Agricultural Research Service</u></li> </ul>	<u>Separate distribution</u>	Ron Lumbra	9:40-9:45
	<b>Motion to adjourn</b>			<b>9:45 a.m.</b>

\*Times are approximate. \*\*The Chair will entertain a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing contracts, premature public knowledge of which would place the university at a substantial disadvantage. Action is anticipated following.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Board of Trustees was held on Friday, February 5, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. The meeting was held via remote conferencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Ron Lumbra, Vice Chair Cynthia Barnhart, Briar Alpert, David Aronoff, John Bartholomew, Otto Berkes, Robert Brennan, Frank Cioffi, John Dineen, Johannah Donovan, Carolyn Dwyer, President Suresh Garimella, Jodi Goldstein, David Gringeri<sup>1</sup>, Don McCree, Carol Ode, Ed Pagano, Shap Smith, Berke Tinaz, and Samuel Young

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kevin “Coach” Christie, Secretary Curt McCormack, Governor Phil Scott and Tristan Toleno

**ALSO PARTICIPATING:** Provost and Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock, Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel and Chief of Staff to the President Sharon Reich Paulsen, Vice President for Finance and Administration Richard Cate, Dean of the Honors College David Jenemann, Student Government Association President Lana Al-Namee, Graduate Student Senate President Avery Rasmussen, Deputy General Counsel John Collins, Director of Athletics Jeff Schulman and incoming student trustees Kisha Kalra

<sup>1</sup> Departed the meeting at 8:52 a.m. and rejoined at 8:57 a.m.

Chair Ron Lumbra called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

**Approval of minutes**

Chair Lumbra presented the September 25, 2020 meeting minutes for approval. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes as presented.

**Chair’s report** (see full report appended to minutes, beginning on page 5)

**President’s report**

After welcoming and introduced incoming student trustee Kisha Kalra, President Suresh Garimella began his report by acknowledging the contributions of UVM staff and his announcement this week of the restoration of salaries of non-represented employees to their fiscal year 2020 levels. He also acknowledged and expressed his appreciation for Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Wanda Heading-Grant’s contributions as she departs for Carnegie Mellon University as their inaugural Vice Provost for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer. In noting the beginning of the spring semester, the President reported the students are following the same health and safety guidelines and testing protocols that were in place during the fall semester including mandatory pre-arrival testing, testing upon arrival, and weekly testing. He pointed out new additions to the campus designed to provide more

opportunities in this COVID environment for students to engage with each other, including fire pits, heated tents, and a lighted ice skating rink. President Garimella concluded by reporting that the University is proceeding with efforts to ensure focus on the goals articulated in Amplifying Our Impact: A Strategic Vision for UVM.

### **Governance leaders discussion**

Trustees engaged in discussions with Student Government Association (SGA) President Lana Al-Namee and Graduate Student Senate (GSS) President Avery Rasmussen regarding their constituents' efforts to support students and create and nurture a sense of community during the pandemic. The student leaders began by presenting highlights from their written reports. Trustees asked about support for students who are taking classes remotely. Presidents Al-Namee and Rasmussen reported that technical issues have been addressed and students are feeling supported. In addition, students are finding ways to build community virtually, citing successful club meetings as an example. They further noted that remote learning accessibility and remote advising are positive outcomes of the pandemic. Trustees thanked both leaders for their organizational efforts to support students.

### **Action Item**

Audit Committee Chair Shap Smith introduced a resolution accepting the fiscal year 2020 audited financial statements.

The following resolution was presented:

#### **Resolution accepting fiscal year 2020 audited financial statements**

WHEREAS, the financial statements of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, have been audited by KPMG LLP, Certified Public Accountants, in accordance with 16 V.S.A. Section 2281(a);

WHEREAS, the audited financial statements for the fiscal year 2020 were presented to the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees at the Audit Committee's November 9, 2020 meeting;

WHEREAS, the Audit Committee approved a resolution recommending acceptance of the FY 2020 audited financial statements;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the FY 2020 audited financial statements as recommended by the Audit Committee.

An opportunity for discussion was offered. There being none, a motion was made, seconded and it was unanimously voted to refer the resolution to the board for approval.

## **Academic reorganization process introduction**

Provost Patricia Prelock and David Jenemann, Dean of the Honors College and Chair of the Academic Reorganization Working Group (ARWG), reviewed the process and anticipated timeline for academic reorganization efforts. The ARWG has about a dozen members including deans, faculty, staff and students. The ARWG is the central work group with three subgroups: External Benchmarking, Internal Alignment, and University Resources. The working group and subgroups will be looking at successful structures and practices at other universities and ways to improve UVM that are aligned with the university's strategic vision and academic success goals.

The work ahead has two phases: 1) a study phase to explore the opportunities and challenges for reorganization and possible contours for reorganization; and 2) a proposal-planning phase that would include more detailed organizational design and implementation discussion. Both phases will include opportunities for university stakeholders to provide input on how to proceed with reorganization efforts. The ARWG will consult with the Faculty Senate during both phases. The working group anticipates presenting its initial findings to the Faculty Senate in April so that the Senate can provide feedback by the time of the Senate's May meeting. Through the remainder of the calendar year, the working group will develop an academic reorganization proposal anticipated to be presented to the Faculty Senate for its feedback no later than the Senate's December meeting. Chair Lumbra thanked Provost Prelock and Dean Jenemann for their work and leadership.

## **Executive session**

At 9:13 a.m., Chair Lumbra entertained a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing contracts, premature public knowledge of which would clearly place the university at a substantial disadvantage, labor relations agreements and to receive advice from legal counsel. He noted the session would last for approximately 20 minutes and action is anticipated following. Everyone was excused from the meeting with the exception of Trustees; Provost & Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock; Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel and Chief of Staff to the President Sharon Reich Paulsen; Vice President for Finance and Administration Richard Cate; Deputy General Counsel John Collins, Director of Athletics Jeff Schulman and Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff Erin Dickinson.

Deputy General Counsel Collins and Director Schulman were excused following the first topic.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 10:06 a.m.

## **Other business**

The following resolution was presented for approval:

**Resolution authorizing resumption of improvements to the On-Campus Multipurpose Center's Recreation and Wellness Facilities and Gutterson Fieldhouse**

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2018, the Board of Trustees authorized the administration to spend up to \$95,000,000 for the on-campus Multipurpose Center ("Project") from a combination of gifts, general funds, and up to \$75,000,000 of University debt; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020, construction on the Project was paused due to the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order issued as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, in April 2020, the Board expressed reservation regarding the bond issuance originally scheduled for July 2020 and necessary for completion of the Project, and directed the University to renegotiate capital construction project contracts, including the Multipurpose Center Project contract;

WHEREAS, \$42,500,000 has been expended to date on the Project, including necessary deferred maintenance work;

WHEREAS, the University has determined that improvements to Recreation and Wellness facilities and to the Gutterson Fieldhouse may continue to proceed without the need for the bond issuance originally scheduled for July 2020;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee of the Whole recommends to the Board that the University be authorized to continue to proceed with improvements to Recreation and Wellness facilities and to the Gutterson Fieldhouse at a cost not to exceed \$22,500,000, to be financed through gifts directed to the Project, funds available from the bond issuance in 2018, and University Reserves previously restricted for the project.

A motion was made, seconded and it was unanimously voted to refer the resolution to the board for approval.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Lumbrá, Chair

**Ron E. Lumbra**  
**UVM Board of Trustees Chair's Report**  
**February 5, 2021**

Good morning everyone and welcome to the February 5, 2021 meeting of the UVM Board of Trustees. As usual, we have a robust agenda today covering a number of important topics. We will attempt to move through the meeting with great efficiency and clarity given the virtual nature of this meeting. Thank you all for your preparation and, in advance, for your attention and focus.

I would like to begin my remarks by focusing on our people. We've been through a lot together and have much to be proud of overcoming during the crisis. From our students whose behavior and compliance with health and safety protocols that have allowed us to remain open and active as a campus community, to our staff and leadership who have worked diligently throughout to effectively manage our operations during this challenging time, and to our faculty who have reimaged and reconfigured their instructional materials to allow the university to offer students a selection of instructional modes. Many across the campus community have made personal and professional sacrifices to help make this happen. The discipline, hard work, and dedication from those collective efforts have paid dividends such that our anticipated financial results for this academic year are now expected to be better than previously forecast. Although certainly not back to the level of prior years, the sacrifices and hard work are paying off. As such, as many of you recently learned from President Suresh Garimella, we have been able to reverse the reductions in compensation felt by our non-represented employees. I am very pleased with this outcome and on behalf of the board want to extend a special thank you for your dedication, commitment, and performance to help get us to this position. I'd also like to thank Vice President for Finance & Administration Richard Cate and the finance team, and our Budget, Finance & Investment colleagues, for so prudently managing and stewarding the finances of the institution.

Continuing on the theme of people, I would like to take a moment to personally recognize Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Wanda Heading-Grant who has been a friend and a trusted colleague for years. As many of you know, Wanda has been presented with a significant professional opportunity to launch the diversity and inclusion program at Carnegie Mellon. It's a noteworthy opportunity for Wanda and her selection speaks volumes about the diversity and inclusion program she's built at UVM. Although Wanda will be missed dearly by all of us, I want to personally thank her for her immeasurable contributions to the University, for making a positive difference in the lives of others, and wish her all the best as she takes on her new role. Carnegie Mellon is lucky to have her.

Regarding our Board of Trustees, we will soon have new legislative trustees and a gubernatorial appointee to be announced subsequent to this meeting. As such, we will provide a proper send off to outgoing trustees, once identified, in early March. I'm very much looking forward to that session and to appropriately honoring the contributions that our outgoing trustees have made to the board. In the meantime, I'd like to offer a special thank you today to David Gringeri who has been an exceptional student trustee. David, you'll be missed and we thank you for your contributions. We look forward to honoring you and others in early March.

I'm pleased to report that Kisha Kalra has been selected as a new student trustee. Kisha is a member of UVM's Larner College of Medicine class of 2023. We are delighted to welcome Kisha to the board and look forward to working with her.

Finally, I try to think of a word that epitomizes the situation and environment for the particular board meeting at hand. The word I think of today is "together". When I think of the contributions of people throughout the UVM community from staff to the foundation, from athletics to facility, I'm reminded of the collective power and impact and the positive difference we can all make by working jointly together for the good of the institution. I anticipate that theme will permeate today's conversations.

Our agenda today will cover a number of topics including budget, finance, the on-campus multipurpose center, and strategic academic opportunities. Tackling these complex issues will require sound judgement. Our ability to meet these challenges together gives me great confidence we will do so successfully and with the right outcome for the long-term health of UVM and the Vermont community at large.

That concludes my remarks.

DRAFT



# UVM'S SUCCESSFUL 2020-21 RETURN TO CAMPUS

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

May, 2021

## CAMPUS STATS — FOUNDED 1791

**4,233**  
faculty and staff

**10,585**  
undergraduates

**914**  
graduate students

**484**  
medical students

**551**  
non-degree students

**4,260**

students living on campus  
and following the  
**Green and Gold Promise**  
[go.uvm.edu/greengoldpromise](http://go.uvm.edu/greengoldpromise)

## PREPARATION

**536,500**  
face masks and face shields

**17,000**  
pairs of safety glasses

**43,000**  
safety signs

**2.27M**  
pairs of nitrile gloves

nearly **2 MILES**  
of plexiglass safety shields

**4,000+ GALLONS**  
of hand sanitizer

**8,000**  
HVAC air filters

**250**  
air purifiers for classrooms and  
maintenance kits

**250 CLASSROOMS**

outfitted with computers, webcams,  
mics, speakers, and tablets to promote  
safety and enhance online learning

**100+ STUDENTS**

to provide classroom  
technology support for

**160+ COURSES**

## TESTING

**418,957**  
COVID-19 tests administered  
during Fall and Spring Semester

**2,400+**  
Average number of tests  
collected daily

**0.21%**  
Positivity rate

## RESPONSES

### FROM OUR PARENTS

"It has been 10 days and isolation is now over, and we could not be more grateful or impressed with the care our child received from UVM." Read one parent's feedback: [go.uvm.edu/gratefulparent](http://go.uvm.edu/gratefulparent)

"I can't imagine all the adjustments you've had to make over the past 7 months, I don't know how you've managed it all and the toll it must take on you. Thank you for all that you've done for us and that I'm sure you continue to do for other students and their families. Stay well!"

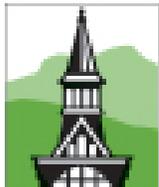
### FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

"I have been dazzled by the responsible and respectful behavior of the UVM community since the semester began. Both on campus and in nearby neighborhoods, students regularly mask up. Thank you for a wonderful start to the new year." *Barbara Murphy, Burlington*

"So encouraging that virtually every single student I see walking about the neighborhood and campus is wearing a mask. They have firmly upended my earlier pessimism. I roundly express my appreciation for their show of respect for each other and those of us around them." *Sean McKenzie, Burlington*

## IN THE MEDIA

[www.go.uvm.edu/insidehighered](http://www.go.uvm.edu/insidehighered)



## UVM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION UPDATE

**Board of Trustees**

**Friday, June 4, 2021**

**Prepared by: Afi Ahmadi '93, Alumni Association President**

**Cathy Tremblay '85, Alumni Association Vice President**

The UVM Alumni Association is pleased to present this report reflecting recent accomplishments and areas of focus in the third quarter. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have pivoted delivery of our traditional in-person activities to the virtual platforms. During this time, our alumni have risen to the challenge and are increasing their engagement through remote volunteerism for both UVM and their respective committees. This report contains a small sample of the many diverse engagement programs we offer.

### Strategic Priority Updates and Program Highlights

#### UVM Connect Platform passes milestone

The UVM Alumni Association's career networking platform has hit another milestone. More than 9,600 members are now registered with over 63% offering to be a resource for current students and recent graduates. Over 4,700 alumni have offered to discuss their career path with fellow alumni or students, 1,200 alumni have offered to host a student to shadow them at work, and 1,500 alumni are willing to support internship opportunities. We have hosted over 20 virtual platform trainings for alumni, students, and multiple UVM departments and groups. We have launched platform advancements such as the Alumni Business Directory (now with over 70 listings), additional profile attributes, and the ability to view the site pages in over 30 languages. Join today at: [www.uvmconnect.org](http://www.uvmconnect.org).



#### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The UVM Alumni Association is committed to diversity and building an environment that values, welcomes, and supports equity and inclusiveness for people of all backgrounds, orientations, identities, ages, and abilities. With campus and alumni constituencies, we work actively with alumni to ensure that we are providing programs and structures that increase alumni engagement across multiple identity groups. This spring, the Alumni Association again provides budgetary and programming support for the Prism Center's Rainbow Graduation and The Mosaic Center for Students of Color Graduation Ceremony. We aim to celebrate, amplify, and uplift these students by honoring their achievement and welcoming them to our alumni community. If you want to connect with these new young alumni, please join the Mosaic or Prism Affinity Groups on UVM Connect and say hello!

#### UVM Student Alumni Association - **Be the Pride. Be the Future. Build Your Home.**

The UVM Student Alumni Association (SAA), a Student Government Association (SGA) recognized club, is supported by the UVM Alumni office and is led by a six-member executive board. Current leaders, Sophie Meyer '21 and Katie Amendola '21, work with more than fifty student leaders to advance marketing and programming in the areas of affinity engagement, campus programs, philanthropy, and senior programs. This past winter, SAA collaborated with our annual giving team to sponsor the fifth annual LUVMYCLUB campaign which provides SGA clubs a platform to raise dollars to support their organizations. Over 1,549 donors gave \$68,550 to over 70 clubs. Notably, 23% of donors were current students. The program concluded with



individual clubs sending out thank you videos to their donors. SAA also presented at the New England Council for Advancement and Support of Education Affiliated Student Advancement Programs conference this spring.



They joined Student Alumni Associations from over a dozen schools sharing their best practices on how to engage students. UVM presented their best tips and tricks for executing virtual programs.

### UVM Enrollment Management Partnerships

The university saw a nearly 40% increase in undergraduate applications this year, receiving a record 25,000+ first-year applications. Once students are admitted, our alumni volunteers play an essential role in helping to enroll the new class. Over 100 volunteers from our alumni community participated in spring outreach projects to congratulate admitted students, welcome them to the university, and answer their questions about UVM. These volunteers represented 25 states as well as China, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. In its fourth year, the **Refer-A-Catamount** program continues to generate significant applicant referrals from the alumni community. Over 200 referrals have been submitted for the Class of 2025. Legacy initiatives this winter included special legacy-only outreach from both alumni volunteers and current legacy students who are members of UVM's Student Alumni Association.

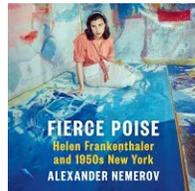
### Amplifying Young Alumni Engagement



The UVM Alumni Association's NextGen Council, established in our five most active alumni markets (Vermont, Washington D.C., San Francisco, New York, and Boston), currently has 40 active members. An information session took place in early March led by NextGen chair facilitators who spoke about their purpose and goals for the future. They are excited to start diving into regional and non-regional (thanks to virtual benefits) engaging programming!

Future events will be listed on the [UVM Alumni Association events calendar](#). Congratulations to National and Vermont Chair James Bentil '13, Boston Chair Renee Cruise '17, New York Chair Allie Goldberg '14, and San Francisco Chair Logan Szidik '14. We are currently seeking the Washington D.C. Chair. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit [alumni.uvm.edu/volunteer](http://alumni.uvm.edu/volunteer).

### Digital Engagement



We continue to engage with alumni in new and exciting ways through virtual channels. Our event calendar is a hub where alumni can find event offerings, including campus-wide events, see [alumni.uvm.edu/events](http://alumni.uvm.edu/events). Alumni events have included alumni-author book discussions, a Saint Patrick's Day Trivia Night, and several UVM Connect trainings for students, alumni, and other groups. We have recorded many of these events and made them available in our new Library of Recorded events. Visit [alumni.uvm.edu/library](http://alumni.uvm.edu/library) for more information. While we miss seeing our alumni in person, we have discovered that virtual platforms allow us to connect with some alumni who were previously unable to engage because of geography.

### SOAR Campaign

The Student Opportunity, Access and Recruitment (SOAR) campaign will raise \$150 million dollars to create paths to opportunity at UVM. The UVM Alumni Association joins UVM in its deep commitment to empowering excellent students from all backgrounds to pursue their passions and prepare themselves to lead productive and consequential lives. The UVM Alumni Association recognizes that more than ever before, philanthropic support for undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, and internships is key to fulfilling UVM's mission. We have worked to help implement UVM's strategic vision *Amplifying Our Impact* by elevating the SOAR campaign through remarks at virtual events, a website presence, and social media touches, reaching an audience of 6,494 to date. We believe scholarship support is critical to building a diverse student body and setting individuals on the road to lifelong success.



FACULTY SENATE

## **Faculty Senate President's Report**

**Board of Trustees  
Friday, June 4, 2021**

**Prepared By  
Chris Burns, Faculty Senate President**

The Faculty Senate is responsible for the effective management of the academic affairs of the University, responsibility it shares with the administration.

### ***The Year in Review***

This has been a year like no other. As a University we have done many things right in regards to managing this pandemic. Decisions made by the administration have helped to ensure the health and safety of the UVM community. Our students have persevered through a frightening and isolating time. Our staff have continually risen to the challenge, whether figuring out how to work from home or braving the proposition of conducting essential work on campus. And our faculty have adapted to teaching in-person and remotely, and have supported students and one another as we all struggled through this difficult year. There have also been some difficult moments for the University this past year which have garnered significant media attention and have strained relations among campus constituencies. Some work has been done to get various groups pulling in the same direction again, but there is more work we will all have to lean into next year to more fully repair faith in our shared governance system and our trust in one another.

This report marks my second and final as Faculty Senate President. I stepped into this role in January, taking over from Thomas Chittenden. While it has been a challenging time to serve as Senate President, it has also been a great honor to serve the faculty and the University in this role. Thomas Borchert will succeed me as President on July 1, and Evan Eyler will continue on as Vice President. I know they will both serve the Senate well and that they are both looking forward to working with the Board and the rest of the University on the challenges and opportunities we will face over the course of the next year and beyond.

Topics discussed at Senate meetings this year include academic reorganization, revisions to the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws, a faculty of color retention resolution, general education, University finances, the Residential Learning Communities, the newly

created Office of Engagement, the work of the Childcare Working Group, processes to review proposals related to academic unit structure, changes to the academic calendar, a resolution supporting the Libraries and the University in their negotiations with Elsevier, a Black Lives Matter flag resolution, and an Inclusive Data Practices resolution,

Below are year-end summaries of the six standing committees of the Senate. Full committee reports are available on the Faculty Senate website or upon request.

***Professional Standard Committee (PSC) – Chair Michael Giangreco***

During the 2020-2021 academic term the PSC reviewed forty-nine sabbatical applications and conducted eighty-six reappointment, promotion, and/or tenure (RPT) reviews. Special thanks to Michael Giangreco who is stepping down from his role as Chair and retiring from the University after a long and distinguished career.

***Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) – Chair Laura Almstead***

The CAC completed the review of eight proposals to initiate, alter, or terminate academic programs, approving four new academic programs and terminating four existing programs, and reviewed and approved fourteen other proposals. The committee also completed academic program reviews for six programs and began work on five others. Special thanks to Chair Laura Almstead who is stepping down from this role after several years of stellar service in this capacity.

***Financial & Physical Planning Committee (FPPC) – Chair Jane Knodell***

The committee received general budget updates from Vice President for Finance & Administration Richard Cate and academic budget updates from Provost Patty Prelock and also discussed the Residential Learning Communities financial model, the Provost's Strategic Investment Fund, and the Campus Master Plan.

***Research, Scholarship and the Creative Arts (RSCA) Committee – Chair Mary Cushman***

Topics discussed included the Libraries negotiations with Elsevier, open access publishing, R1 status, postdoc benefits, graduate student stipends, the student research conference, undergraduate research scholarships, Fulbright awards, the Office of Engagement, the Humanities, and the Academic Freedom Policy.

***Student Affairs Committee (SAC) – Chairs Jen Prue & Terrence Delaney***

Topics discussed by SAC included Residential Life, Living Well, student isolation and stress, standardized tests in undergraduate admissions, academic integrity, enrollment management, the late withdraw rule, inclusive data practices, and vaccine policy.

***Educational & Research Technologies Committee (ERTC) – Chairs Marie Wood & Helen Read***

Topics discussed by ERTC included teaching modalities and tech support, a remote learning survey, the IT shared services project, the math readiness test, the Learning Management System RFP process, research data protection, and computing security.



**Staff Council President's Report**

**Board of Trustees  
Friday June 4, 2021**

**Prepared by  
Caleb Gilbert, Staff Council President**

This is the last report I will make to you as President of Staff Council, as we'll be transitioning this summer to newly elected officers—President Jon Reisenweaver and Vice President Laura Clayton. It could also be the last report you'll receive from Staff Council in its current configuration, as we await the outcomes of unionization efforts.

A successful union drive for either of the two new potential bargaining units would greatly impact the breadth and shape of our representative body. However, it would not change the mission of Staff Council, "...to serve as an advocate for staff by seeking out and responding to their ideas and concerns, representing them to the University administration, and keeping staff informed of University initiatives."

Although we have often received feedback from our constituents criticizing our ability to deliver the kinds of changes that many staff desire, our role in Staff Council has never been to implement policy—that is the role of administrators. Our job is to make sure the collective voice of staff is heard by those administrators as they navigate decisions and choices that will shape our community, business, and culture. Staff will not have all the right answers about each institutional decision, but we will often have the right questions.

My question to you as I depart this office is: What can the Board of Trustees do to ensure that the voices and questions of staff will continue to be heard by campus leadership, regardless of the pending union election outcomes?

As our society transitions away from an era of complicity with racist structures and towards more inclusive models of governance oriented around racial and social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, my concern for the adequate representation of staff voices is more relevant than ever. It is my sincere belief that going forward, successful institutions will be those that embrace the energy and commitment of our era's highest ideals to reshape institutional priorities.

Staff are watching closely as our campus leadership takes us further into this era of reawakened societal demand for social and racial justice. As we navigate together beyond the pandemic, staff are also anxious to hear how UVM administrations plans to handle vital polices, such as those affecting childcare and telework.

Above all, we are wondering what administration will do to ensure staff continue to be heard.

This is an open question for the Board of Trustees, the administrative leadership, and our newly elected Staff Council leadership team to consider. It has been an honor to serve in this role, and I look forward to seeing our university pursue greatness inclusively.



## **Student Government Association President's Report**

**Board of Trustees  
Friday, June 4, 2021**

**Prepared by  
Sam Pasqualoni, Student Government Association President**

Members of the Board,

At the time I am writing this report, students are in the midst of their preparations for their final exams. The 2021-2022 senate has now been sworn in for a little over a month. Senators and executive committee members alike are finding familiarity with their roles and are excited to get to work, serving the student body to the best of our abilities. As many of you are unfamiliar with who I am, my name is Sam Pasqualoni, a Neuroscience major with a minor in English who is from Rye, New Hampshire. I have been on the Student Government Association (SGA) since my first year at UVM, I row crew on the UVM rowing team, and I am involved in research within the medical school. Vice President Olivija Stephens and I have had little time for an easy transition, immediately addressing the most profound events taking place on our campus. We hope that you will share some of our goals for the coming year and assist in realizing them.

I won this election as a write-in during an uncontested year. This is monumentally concerning for the longevity of this organization, even though we could attribute abysmal voter turnout to COVID. I am in the process of making a committee, including a credited intern, who will be researching ways that comparator universities incentivize students to run for their respective student governments.

Days if not hours after I had transitioned into this role, we experienced a profound hurting coming from the student body, particularly from survivors of sexual assault. This was in response to the inadequate support from the university, perpetuating an environment where students expressed, fear, anger, and struggling. The myriad of stories involving assault and misconduct reached far and wide, with viral videos regarding the topic reaching hundreds of thousands of views. I am sure every trustee here has seen this response either on the sidewalks, side of buildings or in their email inbox. I would like to thank those who were brave enough to speak out, along with all administrators who supported the demands the SGA and Title IX committee published. I hope to see all demands realized in the coming months and I offer any advice deemed necessary.

Due to the absence of the previous SGA president from meetings regarding Academic Reorganization, I have appointed another student to serve in that role. It was reassuring to hear how faculty and administrators were so interested to hear from students during this process, and I was happy to oblige with their request for another student representative. That student and I are testing new avenues to reach students regarding academic reorganization meetings and other public forums due to the students' abysmal open rate to emails from the administration.

The Public Relations committee has been seeing massive success in keeping open communications with students concerning the last senate's troubles. Our engagement on the most prominent social media sites for students has increased many folds. I hope to continue this engagement with students given the difficult nature of events such as public forums during this past year.

I hope to keep an open dialogue between SGA and the administration while effectively communicating appropriate news to the student body. My executive committee and senators alike are in dialogue with administrators and students. Communication is something that is constantly needing improvement within our organization, and I look forward to finding the most effective ways to communicate with students.

Our organization strives to make students' voices heard as far and wide as possible. I look forward to hearing your input and hopefully getting your assistance to make UVM as great a place for students as we can attain.