



**Faculty Senate
Minutes
Monday, September 23, 2024
4:00 – 5:30 PM, Waterman Memorial Lounge**

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President Thomas Borchert at 4:04 PM

Senators in Attendance: 66

Absent: 11 Senators: Curricular Affairs Committee Chair (Everse), Counseling, Human Development & Family Science (vacant), Economics (vacant), English Rep1 (Gough), Family Medicine (Berns), Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation (vacant), Psychological Science Rep1 (vacant), Radiology Rep1 (Tsai), Research, Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources (Danks), School of the Arts Rep1 (vacant), Social Work (vacant)

-
1. **Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks** – Thomas Borchert made the following remarks:
 - a. Keith Burt, Associate Professor of Psychological Sciences, has been appointed to serve as the Faculty Ombudsperson for a one-year term. The Faculty Ombudsperson assists non-unionized faculty with the following: assisting faculty in determining the institutional channels most appropriate for the resolution of a complaint; assisting faculty in seeking resolution of a complaint through normal institutional channels; and to facilitate the informal resolution of complaints through mediation.
 - b. The Faculty Senate website has converted to the Drupal 10 platform. The Senate agenda is posted on the website. Documents and materials posted as links on the Senate agenda are available on the Senate SharePoint site, which requires login with your UVM NetID.
 - c. Feedback regarding the Presidential Search was gathered at the August Faculty Senate meeting. Responses received regarding qualities desired in the incoming President included: an attention to transparency, the importance of internal communications, experience with fundraising, and the ability and interest in streamlining the bureaucracy at UVM. The critical initiatives that were suggested as key priorities included: continuing the research agenda, focus on housing for both faculty and staff, and the retention of faculty and staff especially people of color. Thomas Borchert stated that there will be opportunities to provide feedback as part of the search process and encouraged faculty to participate.

2. Degree Conferrals

It was moved, seconded and voted that the following numbers of graduates be recommended by the Senate to the President for the awarding of the appropriate degrees or certificates as authorized by the Board of Trustees. Individual names of the graduates will be recorded with the minutes of this meeting in the permanent Senate records.

Degrees:

Agriculture and Life Sciences (3)

Arts and Sciences (10 Bachelor of Arts, 1 Bachelor of Science)

Education and Social Services (2)

Nursing and Health Sciences (1)

Vote: 45 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. **The motion carried**

3. Approval of the minutes of the August 2024 Senate meeting.

Vote: 47 approve, 0 oppose, 2 abstain. **The minutes were approved as written.**

4. Resolution in Memoriam for Aulis Lind

Professor Shelly Rayback presented a resolution in memoriam for Aulis Lind, Professor Emeritus of Geography. The resolution is attached to these minutes.

Motion: Shelly Rayback moved to inscribe the Resolution in Memoriam for Aulis Lind in the minutes of the Faculty Senate and have a copy sent to her family.

Vote: 43 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. **The motion carried.**

5. Resolution to Accept the Proposal to Establish the Vermont Complex Systems

Institute – Thomas Borchert presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS in 2006, there was a cluster hire of faculty that led to the recognition of complex systems at the University of Vermont as a Spire of Excellence; and

WHEREAS the Vermont Complex System Center was established in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences; and

WHEREAS a proposal to change the CEMS-based Center into a University-wide Institute based in the Office of the Vice President for Research was developed by Peter Dodds, Professor of Computer Science and the Proposed Institute Director, and Alexa Woodward, Executive Director of the Complex System Center; and

WHEREAS the University Manual states that the “Proposals to establish, substantially change or eliminate university-wide academic Centers and Institutes must be approved by the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the President and Provost following application of appropriate governance protocols, including Faculty Senate review of new Institutes and Centers, and periodic performance and mission review” (University Manual 208.5); and

WHEREAS the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Arts Committee (RSCA) of the Faculty Senate reviewed the proposal to establish the Vermont Complex Systems Institute (VCSI) on behalf of the Faculty Senate and recommends that the Faculty Senate accept the proposal to establish the VCSI (recommendation attached);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont agrees with the recommendation of the RSCA and recommends that the President and Provost and the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont approve the proposal to establish the VCSI in the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Discussion: No questions or comments were received.

Vote: 45 approved, 1 opposed, 2 abstain. **The motion carried.**

- 6. Orientation to the Faculty Senate Committees.** Thomas Borchert provided an overview of the structure of the Faculty Senate, with a focus on the roles and responsibilities of the six standing committees, which are authorized to act for and in the name of the Faculty Senate. The work of the Senate committees will come to the Senate in a report, or an action requiring discussion and vote. Presentation slides are attached to these minutes. President Borchert introduced the chairs of the six standing committees, who highlighted the anticipated work of their committee in the coming year.

Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) – Co-Chairs Colby Kervick & Stephen Everse.

In addition to the ongoing review of curricular proposals and academic program review (APR), three goals of the CAC this year are: 1) to revise some of the curricular guidance to update, clarify, and align the guidance across different kinds of curricular actions, 2) to gather feedback and examine the APR process for potential refinements of those procedures, and 3) to conduct fact finding around structural arrangements and needs related to interdisciplinary curricular offerings around campus.

Financial and Physical Planning Committee (FPPC) – Chair Guillermo Rodriguez.

The FPPC communicates with and provides feedback to the administration regarding the building of the university budget, and the maintenance and the management of the physical plant. Three topics of interest this year include: 1) the budgetary issues connected to increasing the graduate student population, 2) the management of F&A particularly around grants in the hard sciences and the natural sciences, and 3) the management of the endowment for the university given that the Board of Trustees has decided to manage those funds with an in-house company.

Professional Standards Committee (PSC) – Chair Carolyn Bonifield –

The PSC serves as advisory to Provost on confidential personnel matters related to reappointment, promotion, and tenure (RPT) decisions, as well as on sabbatical applications.

Research, Scholarship, and The Creative Arts Committee (RSCA) – Co-Chairs Jennifer Hurley and Bikki Tran Smith. The RSCA is responsible to review, recommend, and participate in the formulation of policy with respect to resources related to research activities, scholarly work, and the creative and performing arts carried out at the University. The RSCA serves as a liaison between Faculty Senate and the University administration with regular conversation with the IRB, SPA, and the VP for Research Office. In addition, the RSCA serves as the review committee for proposals to establish new University wide institutes. Items on the RSCA agenda this year include: 1) meeting with someone from Harvard to learn more about their Open Access resolution; 2) more conversations with the IRB to ensure efficiency so faculty spend less time on administrative tasks and more time on research; 3) reviewing proposals for new institutes at UVM, and 4) follow-up with recently approved institutes to get an update on their operations and any challenges they may be facing in accomplishing their mission.

Educational Research Technologies Committee (ERTC) – Chair Helen Read. The ERTC is concerned with technology used in teaching and in research, and often provides feedback to ETS, the Registrar’s Office and CDL before the campus-wide launch of new technology. Three policy development items are on the radar this year, including: 1) AI, 2) license distribution for En Vivo Cloud Collaborate, a research tool for qualitative research, and 3) faculty computer replacement.

Student Affairs Committee (SAC) – Co-Chairs Steve Gove and Jennifer Prue – The SAC focuses on issues related to the student experience and their effect on the educational process and academic achievement. The SAC works closely with the Registrar, the Provost’s Office, Student Accessibility Services, Residential Life and the Student Government Association, and recommends policy around issues that impact students. Items for consideration can be brought to the SAC by students, the Student Government Association, or other student groups, faculty, colleges, or administrative offices.

7. Reports that do not require a Senate vote:

- a. Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) – Approval of the following four APR reports:
 - Philosophy Department (CAS)
 - Undergraduate Food Systems Program (CALS)
 - Plant and Soil Sciences Department (now Agriculture, Landscape and Environment) (CALS)
 - Undergraduate Engineering Programs (CEMS)

8. Commencement 2025 Update – Kelly O’Malley, Senior Coordinator Presidential Events shared a proposal for a new model for Commencement. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes. Factors leading to reimagining

Commencement include weather, physical space, the desire for more equitable experience, accessibility, and feedback received from graduates and families. The proposal for Commencement 2025 is designed to offer our community and guests opportunities to connect, celebrate, and gather in a meaningful way through events hosted on campus on the Friday of Commencement weekend. Kelly shared a mock schedule that included Friday events open to the entire UVM community and culminating with a parade from the Davis Center Green to the University Green for an event called Twilight on the University Green, which will be a brief standing concert style ceremony like the twilight induction at Convocation. The proposed plan would move the college/school ceremonies to the Champlain Valley Expo on Saturday & Sunday (organized by College/School), and UVM would no longer have a main ceremony. The proposal is not final. Contact Kelly O'Malley at Academic_Ceremonies@uvm.edu with any questions or comments. The goal is to finalize the Commencement schedule by the end of October to ensure that families have time to plan. Discussion included questions and feedback regarding accessibility, transportation, family resources, and cost to the University. Kelly confirmed that Phi Beta Kappa and other award ceremonies will be included in the plan. Transportation plans to the Expo will include campus buses operating on a schedule, for those without personal vehicles. It is anticipated that the overall accessibility will greatly improve at the Expo venue. Concerns regarding costs borne by families for hotels are being considered, and Kelly confirmed that tickets to the Commencement will be free, and there will be no other Commencement fee other than the student purchase of regalia. Although the Expo cannot provide a true cost until the final schedule and details are worked out, there is a potential cost savings from the exceptional cost of transforming the University Green, Patrick Gym and Gutterson into event spaces.

9. **New Business** – none at this time

10. **Adjourn** – Joan Rosebush moved to adjourn at 5:21 PM. The motion was seconded and carried.

**Resolution in Memoriam
Aulis Lind
Professor Emeritus of Geography
1934-2024**

**Presented by Shelly A. Rayback
Professor
Department of Geography and Geosciences**

23 September 2024

The University of Vermont's Department of Geography and Geosciences regrets to report the death of our colleague and friend, Aulis Lind who passed away on May 7, 2024 at the age of 89. A child of Swedish immigrants, Aulis was born in August of 1934 and grew up in Chicago. Aulis joined the US Navy and served with distinction on the crew of the USS Nautilus – the first submarine to ever travel under the Arctic pack ice. Earning a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Wisconsin in 1966, Aulis became a professor in the Department of Geography at University of Vermont in 1970 and was the director of the remote sensing laboratory. Aulis's career achievements included: the first use of NASA satellite imaging to document pollution from a paper plant in New York spoiling Lake Champlain, which contributed to case settlement after expert testimony to a Special Master in the United States Supreme Court; the first uses of NASA LANDSAT imaging for environmental monitoring and making detailed land use maps; two prestigious Fulbright Research Awards to teach at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok; and, serving as the Vermont State Climatologist from 1991-1994. Aulis's professional memberships included: The National Association of State Climatologists; The American Meteorological Society; The Remote Sensing Committee - Natl. Council for Geographic Education; The American Society of Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing; and Sigma Xi. Aulis retired in 1994 from the Department.

Aulis was an outstanding scholar and teacher over the course of their career at UVM and Aulis' contributions to the field of remote sensing and environmental geography are significant. The Department of Geography and Geosciences at University of Vermont is grateful for Aulis' 25 years of service to the field of geography and to the Department.

I move that this resolution in memoriam be inscribed in the Minutes of the Faculty Senate and that copies be sent to Aulis' family.



Resolution to Establish the Vermont Complex Systems Institute

September 23, 2024

WHEREAS in 2006, there was a cluster hire of faculty that led to the recognition of complex systems at the University of Vermont as a Spire of Excellence; and

WHEREAS the Vermont Complex System Center was established in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences; and

WHEREAS a proposal to change the CEMS-based Center into a University-wide Institute based in the Office of the Vice President for Research was developed by Peter Dodds, Professor of Computer Science and the Proposed Institute Director, and Alexa Woodward, Executive Director of the Complex System Center; and

WHEREAS the University Manual states that the “Proposals to establish, substantially change or eliminate university-wide academic Centers and Institutes must be approved by the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the President and Provost following application of appropriate governance protocols, including Faculty Senate review of new Institutes and Centers, and periodic performance and mission review” (University Manual 208.5); and

WHEREAS the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Arts Committee (RSCA) of the Faculty Senate reviewed the proposal to establish the Vermont Complex Systems Institute (VCSI) on behalf of the Faculty Senate and recommends that the Faculty Senate accept the proposal to establish the VCSI (recommendation attached);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont agrees with the recommendation of the RSCA and recommends that the President and Provost and the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont approve the proposal to establish the VCSI in the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Recommendation from the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Arts Committee of the Faculty Senate

August 13, 2024

Dear Faculty Senate Executive Council,

The Research Scholarship and the Creative Arts Committee (RSCA) reviewed the Vermont Complex Systems Institute proposal for the Faculty Senate and received a formal presentation of the proposal on April 11th, 2024. Alexa Woodward, Executive Director, Peter Dodds, Institute Director, and Chris Danforth, Director of the Vermont Advance Computing Center provided the presentation and answered questions about the proposal. The RSCA discussed the proposal and took a vote on May 9th, 2024, to approve the proposal to be sent on to the Faculty Senate for consideration. The committee members voted 7-0 to approve the proposal, with one abstention. The RSCA Committee members saw the value in how the proposed institute will support cross-disciplinary efforts and research projects across UVM's colleges.

The proposed Vermont Complex Systems Institute is an expansion into a University-wide Institute of the Complex Systems Center housed in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. The proposed Institute builds on the work of the "research spire of excellence" that was started in 2006 and decades of research applying computational data science to the study of complex systems. The vision of the institute is, "To be a world-renowned leading Institute in the basic science and education of data rich complex systems with long-term, meaningful collaborations with government, community, private sector, and academic partners." In fulfilling this vision, the proposed Institute will help fulfill the University's research and land grant missions.

During the RSCA committee's discussion with Woodward, Dodds and Danforth on April 11, 2024, and during the following discussion among the RSCA committee members on May 9, 2024, all questions were answered. These included questions about:

Projects the Center is currently working on and that the proposed Institute would carry forward such as genomics and large language model tools, and the zoning maps in Vermont cities and towns;

The finances of the proposed Institute, including the advantages of being housed in the Office of the Vice President for Research, and finances over the next five years;

How faculty members not currently associated with the Center might engage with the proposed Institute's work.

The RSCA Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate approve the establishment of the Vermont Complex Systems Institute.

I would be happy to answer any questions about the above information.

Sincerely,

Jen Hurley

Associate Professor of Early Childhood Special Education
Chair, Research Scholarship and Creative Arts Committee

Orientation

- Introduction to the Senate Standing Committees
- Questions and Discussion

Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws

PREAMBLE

The administration and the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont share responsibility for the effective management of the academic affairs of the University. Authority in matters related to the academic mission of the University is vested in the faculty by the Board of Trustees.

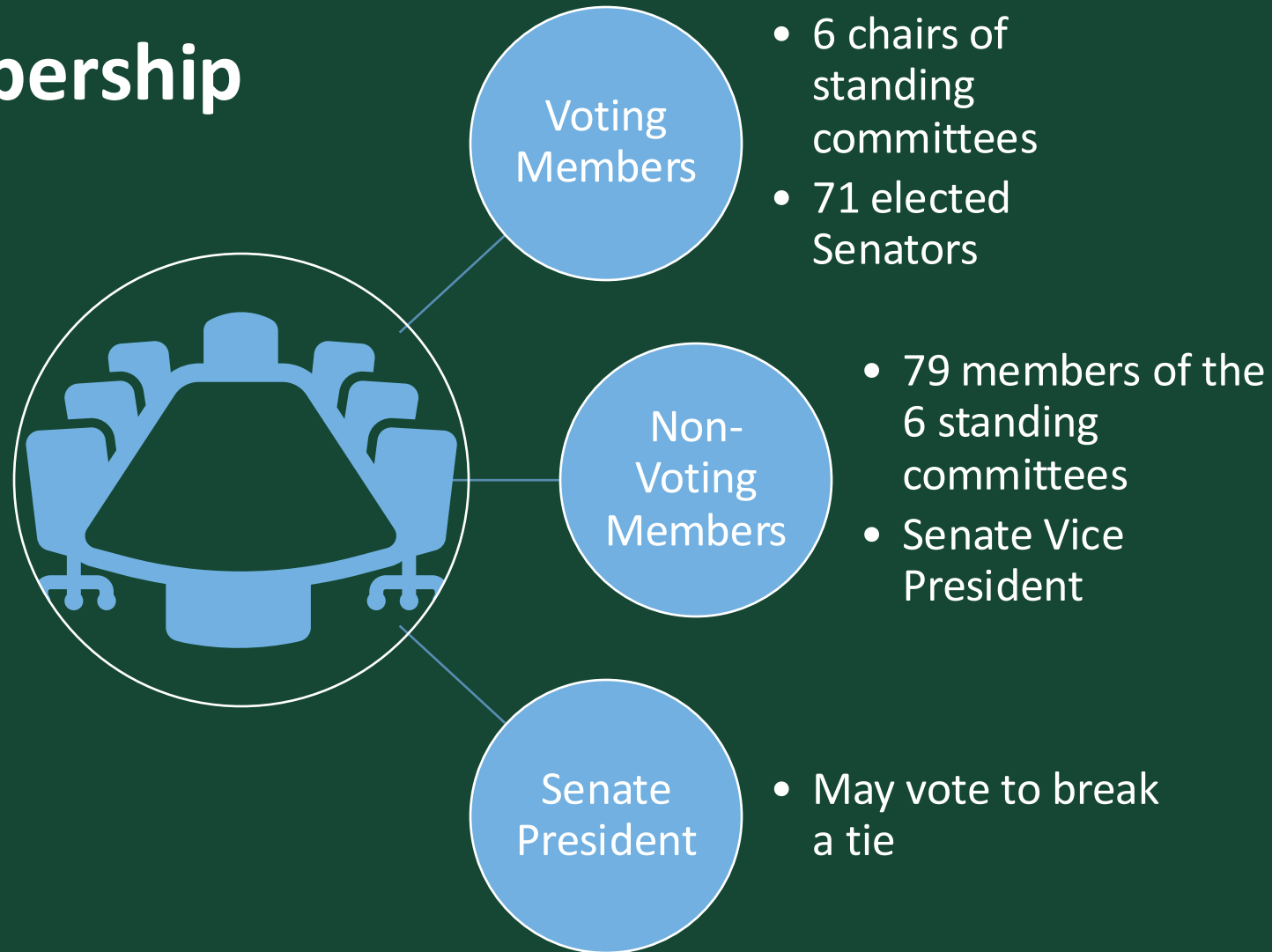
This authority is exercised in the Faculty Senate by elected senators with voting privileges and by committees authorized to act on their behalf. Meetings of the Faculty Senate are presided over by a President and Vice-

President and follow a town-meeting format at which all University faculty members have a voice. The activities of the Senate are overseen by an Executive Council.

CBL Last revised: October 2001.
Approved by the Faculty Senate November 19, 2001.
Approved by the Board of Trustees February 23, 2002. **Amended:** May 1, 2006; March 14, 2011; April 23, 2012; February 13, 2014; November 12, 2015; December 23, 2015; April 9, 2021



Senate Membership



President & VP

6 Chairs of Standing
Committees

Executive
Council

Immediate Past
President &
President-Elect

4 elected Members
At Large

Faculty Senate Executive Council

Chairs of the 6 Standing Committees

Curricular Affairs – Co-Chairs Colby Kervick & Stephen Everse

Educational & Research Technologies – Chair Helen Read

Financial & Physical Planning – Chair Guillermo Rodriguez

Professional Standards – Chair Carolyn Bonifield

Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts – Chair Jennifer Hurley

Student Affairs – Co-Chairs Jennifer Prue & Steve Gove

4 Members At Large

Elected by Senators

Tony Julianelle (2023 – 2025)

Kenneth Allen (2023-2025)

Brian Beckage (2024-2026)

Vacant (2024-2026)

President & Vice President

Thomas Borchert, President

Evan Eyler, Vice President

Faculty Senate Committee Membership

Standing committees are authorized to act for and in the name of the Senate. There are six standing committees of the Faculty Senate.

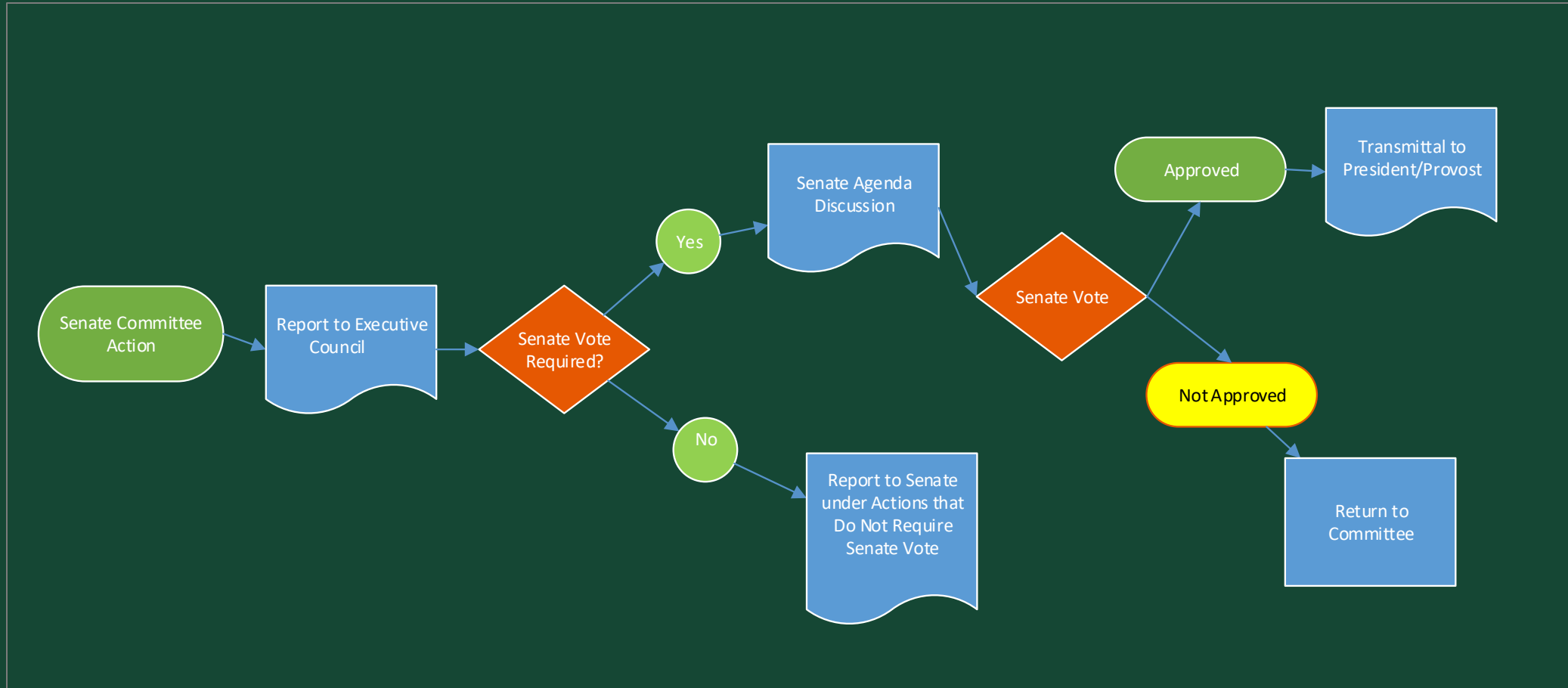
Membership:

- At least one member from each College/School/Libraries elected for a 3-year term
- Units with more than 200 full-time eligible

faculty may elect one additional member to each standing committee

- The Curricular Affairs Committee has double the number of members
- Standing committee members are non-voting member of the Faculty Senate unless also serving as an elected senator or chair of a standing committee.

Senate Committee Action



Quorum



Quorum for warned motions = 39 of the 77 voting members must be present (the majority of voting members)



Quorum for unwarned motions = 58 of the 77 voting members must be present ($\frac{3}{4}$ of the voting members)



A motion is approved if a quorum is present, and a majority of those voting approve the proposal.

Role of the Faculty Senate President

- Preside at meetings of the Faculty Senate
- Serve as the Faculty's spokesperson and consult with the administration, the Staff Council, the student body, the Board of Trustees, and the extra-university community on matters within the jurisdiction of the Senate



THIS COULD BE YOU!

Faculty Senate Website & SharePoint & Teams

Website = Public Information

SharePoint = Internal UVM information

Teams = Committee Working Files



Commencement 2025 Proposal

Constraints

Why are we reimagining Commencement: Constraints

Experience

- Create more equitable experience for students across various disciplines/majors - there is currently a great deal of variation between colleges
- Use technology to bring commencement into the 21st century, streamline and reimagine processes & participant roles
- Accessibility

Weather

- Heat
- Moist weather - Fairbury Field is just a distance
- Safety - heat, crowding, signs, and other issues create security and safety concerns

Spaces

- The physical spaces are at capacity
- Because of space limitations, many past and other fair attendees - this creates concerns, signs and issues. We created an event just to be successful



Feedback and Goals

We asked: what is most important to you?

Top five, as reported by students

1. Getting the diploma
1. Hearing name called
2. Crossing the stage
4. Celebrating with friends and family
3. Celebrating with colleagues/faculty

Top five, as reported by faculty

1. Hearing grad's name called
2. Crossing the stage
3. Student entering regalia (cap and gown)
4. Celebrating with friends and family
5. Student entering regalia (cap and gown)

Please note: these top 5 were also reflected in the answers of faculty and staff

We continue to meet with campus partners, from every college/school, across multiple disciplines and roles. We welcome everyone's feedback.

Proposed Solution

What is our proposed plan?

Friday

- Opportunity to open campus (commencement, rain and learning center)
- Opportunity for faculty, staff and guests to connect with students and families
- Full access to athletic center (regalia)
- Full Field Practice on the Sports Center (regalia, practice, rain to commencement)
- Twilight on the University Street

Saturday/Sunday

- Traditional distribution to the House of Representatives along the regalia or name to call
- Special remarks
- Commencement Student Leader
- 2025
- College/school speaker
- College/school by President

What schedule, best fit?



Saturday		Sunday	
Regalia South	Regalia North	Regalia South	Regalia North
10:00 - 11:00 AM	11:00 - 12:00 PM	10:00 - 11:00 AM	11:00 - 12:00 PM
1:00 - 2:00 PM	2:00 - 3:00 PM	1:00 - 2:00 PM	2:00 - 3:00 PM
3:00 - 4:00 PM	4:00 - 5:00 PM	3:00 - 4:00 PM	4:00 - 5:00 PM

2025 will have a Sunday morning to the Regalia

Questions?

Questions and Feedback

We would like to hear from you, our faculty. If you have questions or would like to send comments, please email Kelly O'Malley at Academic_Ceremonies@uvm.edu

Why are we reimagining Commencement: Constraints

Experience

- Create more equitable experience for students across various colleges/schools – there is currently a great deal of variation between events.
- Use technology to bring commencement into the 21st century; streamline and expand/improve graduate & guest experience.
- Accessibility

Weather

- Heat
- Severe weather – if we're lucky it's just a downpour.
- Safety – heat, crowding, egress, and other issues create security and safety concerns

Spaces

- Our physical spaces are at capacity
- Because of space limitations, every year we plan two different events – this wastes resources, labor, and spaces. We create an event just to be canceled.



We asked: what is most important to you?

Top five, as reported by students:

Tied for first

1. Getting the diploma
1. Hearing name called
1. Crossing the stage
4. Celebrating with friends and family
5. Celebrating with college/school

Top five, as reported by families:

Tied for second

1. Hearing grad's name called
2. Crossing the stage
2. Getting the diploma
4. Celebrating with friends and family
5. Student wearing regalia (cap and gown)

*please note: these top 5 were also reflected in the answers of faculty and staff

We continue to meet with campus partners, from every college/school, across multiple disciplines and roles. We welcome everyone's feedback.

What is our proposed plan?

Friday

Campus Open House

Opportunity to open campus classrooms, labs and learning spaces

Opportunity for faculty, staff and admin to celebrate with students and families

Fun moments / photo ops across campus

Food Truck Festival on the Davis Center Green / Andrew Harris Commons

Twilight on the University Green

Saturday/ Sunday

Commencement Diploma Ceremonies

Diploma distribution is the focus: all students cross the stage as name is called
Deans' remarks

Outstanding Student Leader awards

College/School speaker

Degree conferral by President

Mock schedule. Not final

Saturday

Expo South

9:00a – 10:30a	CAS 1
1:00p – 2:30p	CAS 2
5:00p – 6:30p	CAS 3

Expo North

11:00a – 12:30p	GRAD
3:00p – 4:30p	RSENR
6:30p – 8:00p	GSB

Sunday

Expo South

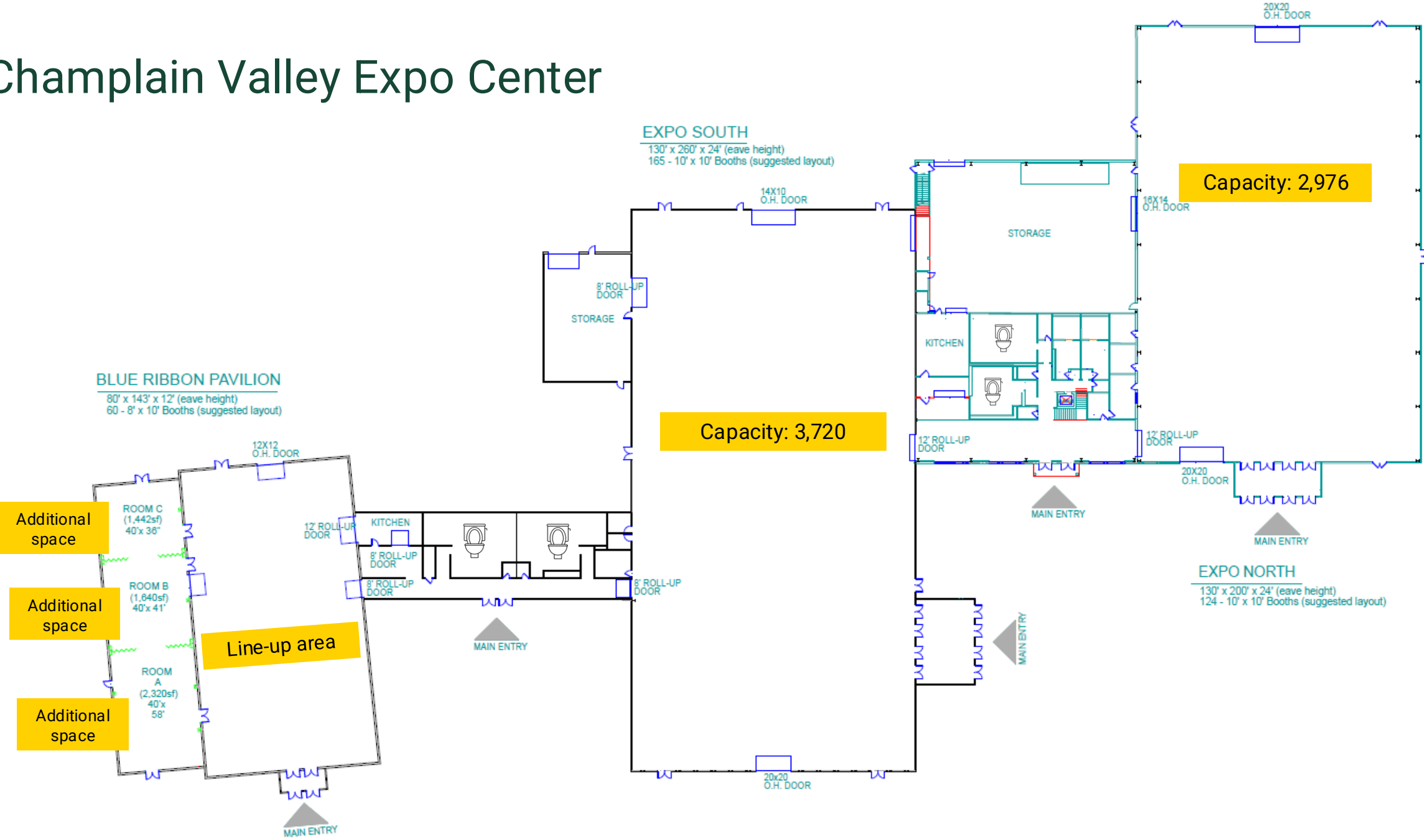
11:00a – 12:30p	CEMS
3:00p – 4:30p	CALS

Expo North

9:00a – 10:30a	CESS
1:00p – 2:30p	CNHS

LCOM will be on Sunday morning in Ira Allen Chapel

Champlain Valley Expo Center





Questions and Feedback

We would like to hear from you, our faculty.
If you have questions or would like to send comments, please email Kelly O'Malley at Academic_Ceremonies@uvm.edu

