



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Monday, April 20, 2020

Online via Microsoft Teams 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Recording of this meeting is available on Microsoftstream:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/1718263d-a5a0-4d0e-9f41-4b80cfefe748>

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

Senators in Attendance: 70

Absent: Senators Yang (Mathematics & Statistics, Rep 2), Evans (Surgery, Rep 2), VonDoepp/Zakaras (Political Science), Diehl (Microbiology & Molecular Genetics), Prue (SAC), Macias (Sociology)

1. **Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks** – Thomas Chittenden's opening remarks included:

- Election Results - Thomas thanked the electorate for voting in the Senate elections. He is honored to have been elected to serve a second term as Senate President. Brian Beckage and Jason Garvey were elected to serve as Members at-large to the Executive Council.
- Pandemic Update – The Vermontilator, early graduation for nurses, and the Virtual Student Research Day are just a few examples of how the UVM community has risen to challenge presented by COVID-19. Business of the Senate has been fast-paced and has included work on the pass/no-pass policy, commencement, final exams, and fall contingency planning.
- Amplifying our Impact Survey – President Garimella sent out an email last week outlining our University goals to amplify our impact. Senators are encouraged to complete the survey with their thoughts and perspective on the vision.
- Our Cousins in the VSC - Thomas reflected on the recent news about the financial crisis at the Vermont State Colleges.

2. **Consent Agenda - The following items were voted as a consent agenda**

Motion: To approve the Minutes of the March 23, 2020 Senate meeting

Vote: 98% approve, 0% oppose, 2% abstain

Motion: To approve the Minutes of the February 24, 2020 Senate meeting

Vote: 98% approve, 0% oppose, 2% abstain

3. **Conferral of Degrees**

In this unprecedented environment, where there is a critical need for health care workers, the Senate has been asked to confer degrees early for nursing and medical students so that they may obtain temporary work orders and begin staffing the overrun health care facilities. 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 are recorded with the minutes of this meeting in the permanent Senate records.

- College of Nursing and Health Sciences (96)
- Larner College of Medicine (49)

Motion: To accept the degrees as presented

Vote: 98% approve, 0% oppose, 2% abstain

4. **General Education Process Update** – Thomas Chittenden framed this discussion with a description of the established voting procedures. Motions from the floor will be conducted using a link to a Form in the meeting Chat window. At the end of the discussion, the vote on the final motion will be conducted using Lime Survey. An email with a tokenized link to the ballot will be sent to all 76 voting members of the Senate. The ballot will remain open until May 4th. J. Dickinson, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, presented an overview of the refined General Education Framework, with the goal of reaching Senate approval of the overall structure of the Framework, including the guiding principles, the three curricular areas, and the credit distribution across categories. Before opening the floor for discussion, Associate Provost Dickinson presented the tentative implementation timeline and noted that the curriculum is not expected to launch next Fall. The timeline for 2020-2021 includes a series of operational activities, such as establishing a General Education Committee, and bringing the finalized category descriptions and approval criteria to the Faculty Senate for approval. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes, and available in the meeting video recording. Task Force members participated in Nicole Phelps Discussion included:

- Configuration of the General Education Committee, including the foundational principles for creating a university-wide curriculum committee and how it would be populated with members will be discussed by the General Education Task Force in May
- Concerns were expressed about the structure of the Arts and Humanities section. Task force committee member, Nicole Phelps, and J. Dickinson addressed the concerns and stated that more work is needed in the actual individual requirements. In addition to refinements to Arts and Humanities, additions/changes need to be considered in the Quantitative and Data Literacy requirement, and the Global Citizenship group is working to clearly separate that pathway from the existing D2 requirement. Refinements to these individual requirements should be considered separately from the overall framework and distribution of credits and the guiding principles.

- Clarification that the requested vote is for the credit distribution across categories (21 credits of liberal arts, 9 credits in core skills and 12 credits in common ground values). The distinction between an AH1 and AH2 sub-category is a college level decision, and not part of the university-wide requirement. The key to the framing of General Education is to allow flexibility within each college, and to allow colleges to make further refinements if they choose.

Motion: Thomas Chittenden moved to approve the Catamount Core General Education Framework, including guiding principles, curricular areas, and credit distribution across categories. The motion was seconded. Discussion.

Motion: Susanmarie Harrington moved to amend the motion by striking every word in it and replacing it with “to approve the General Education Framework’s guiding principles, and a framework of 42 credits in courses distributed across three main areas: Liberal Arts (21 credits); Core Skills (9 credits); and Common Ground Values (12 credits).” The motion was seconded.

Vote: 92% approve, 3% oppose, 5% abstain

The amended motion carried and will be placed on the ballot for vote by all 76 voting members of the Senate. The vote will be conducted in Lime Survey. An email with a tokenized link to the ballot will be sent to all 76 voting members of the Senate. The ballot will remain open until May 4th.

5. Ricard Cate on the University Financial Situation – Richard Cate, Vice President for Finance and Treasurer, reported that the pandemic has created uncertainty that has implications for budget planning. Currently there is no detailed 2020-2021 budget, just a continuing resolution. The UVM Board of Trustees has voted and approved an interim budget (July – September) that keeps us going while we gather information on what will happen to the revenue stream. Important pieces of the revenue stream include:

- Undergraduate enrollment. Data on enrollments at this point is based on deposits for first-year, first-time students, which is on track from past years. Typically, most deposits are received in the last week of April. We will have a better idea after the May 1st deadline. Data on the number of returning students will be available closer to the time that bills go out in July.
- State appropriation is anticipated to be level funded.
- UVM anticipates receiving about \$7 million from the CARES Act Fund. Half of the funds must be used for student emergency situations and the other half may be used at the discretion of the University. UVM has paid out about \$5.5 million to students for housing refunds. Another \$1 million has been paid to enhance technology for remote classes, supplies, equipment and other COVID related expenses.
- Decisions have been made to delay expenses that were planned to incur obligations/debt. The planned multi-purpose center project has been re-phased. The arena is being delayed

Before opening the floor for questions, VP Cate reported that UVM has a good financial base, and has not needed to activate a line-of-credit. He is not concerned that there will be

a short-term cash emergency. UVM is looking ahead to be prepared to deal with the challenging budget situation. Discussion topics included:

- Plans for Fall Semester - Provost Patty Prelock offered a cautionary note to faculty regarding the plans for Fall. UVM is planning to operate as normal for the Fall semester, and it is very important for faculty not to tell students that we are going to be online this fall. President Garimella has appointed the *UVMStrong – Fall 2020 Advisory Committee* to ensure that we are ready to welcome students back to campus. The committee is also tasked with developing plans to ensure we are fully prepared in the event we face a recurrence of the coronavirus at some point in the fall. UVM is being thoughtful on how we prepare the campus to be safe and healthy for students.
- Sabbaticals for faculty – Provost Prelock reported that faculty have the option to defer their sabbatical due to COVID, and will be allowed to count this year towards the next sabbatical term. Deans have been asked to have meaningful conversations with faculty regarding sabbatical plans. Concerns include travel challenges, and instructional support needed in departments.

6. RLC data – Due to time constraints, this agenda item was moved to the May agenda. Provost Prelock will be invited back to present the results of the RLC assessment at the May Senate meeting.

7. New Business – none at this time

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Refined General Education Framework

J. Dickinson
Associate Provost
Academic Affairs



CATAMOUNT CORE
CURRICULUM

Guiding Principles

- **Three curricular areas:** Liberal Arts, Core Skills, Common Ground Values
- **40 credit rule:** Students can “double dip,” but they must still take 40 credits of Gen Ed approved courses overall
- **Central Approval:** A university-wide Gen Ed Curriculum committee will approve courses; current Gen Ed committees will be folded into this larger committee
- **Criteria-based Approval:** All courses must be approved by the University General Education Curriculum Committee based on established approval criteria for each General Education requirement, not on offering department.
- **Multiple designations:** A course can carry multiple designations. In most cases, a course will carry no more than three designations. There are two types of cross-designation that are not allowed: MA courses cannot fulfill the QD requirement; and a single course cannot carry two different liberal arts category designations.
- **A Gen Ed Coordinator** will oversee the curriculum. Half-time, faculty position





CATAMOUNT CORE CURRICULUM: Revised April 2020

CATAMOUNT CORE is made up of 42 credits in courses distributed across three main areas: LIBERAL ARTS (21 credits); CORE SKILLS (9 credits); and COMMON GROUND VALUES (12 credits).

Students will be able to take courses that fulfill more than one category BUT they MUST still take at least 40 unique credits of courses that have been approved to fulfill CATAMOUNT CORE CURRICULUM requirements.

LIBERAL ARTS

21 CREDITS

- AH1, AH2 **ARTS AND HUMANITIES**
6 credits
- S1 **SOCIAL SCIENCES**
6 credits
- N1, N2 **NATURAL SCIENCES**
6 credits
- MA **MATHEMATICS**
3 credits

CORE SKILLS

9 CREDITS*

- QD **QUANTITATIVE AND DATA LITERACY**
3 credits
- WIL1 **COMMUNICATION 1**
Foundational Writing and Info Literacy
3 credits
- WIL2 **COMMUNICATION 2**
3 credits from:
Writing and Info Literacy Tier 2
- OC **or**
Oral Communication

*IA has been removed

COMMON GROUND VALUES

12 CREDITS*

- D1 **DIVERSITY 1**
3-6 credits
- D2 **DIVERSITY 2**
0-3 credits
- SU **SUSTAINABILITY**
3 credits
- GC **GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP**
3 credits

*SJ has been removed

TENTATIVE Implementation Timeline

Academic Year	Implementation Goals
2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establish Gen Ed Curriculum Committee- Bring finalized category descriptions and approval criteria to FS for approval- Units address curriculum and catalogue changes to align with Gen Ed- Course approvals begin, continuing through AY 21-22
2022-2023	Phase 1 adding in Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Gen Ed requirements for class of 2026. Ongoing assessment of capacity based on course approvals for new categories.
2023-2024	Goal to begin phase 2 implementation for class of 2027 for all remaining Gen Ed categories, including adding Mathematics and QD, and phasing out QR.
2023-2025	Assessment of progress, and opportunity to consider some revisions to the curriculum. Spring 2024: 5-year interim report to NECHE.

Discussion



The University of Vermont