

**Report (2023/2024)**  
**Research, Scholarship and the Creative Arts Committee**  
UVM Faculty Senate  
May 23, 2024

Membership of the Committee:

Jennifer Hurley (CESS; Chair), Vicki Brennan (CAS), Marieka Brouwer Burg (CAS), Paula Higa (CAS, Fine Arts), Stephen Keller (Agriculture & Life Science), Chun Zhang (GSB), Raju Badireddy (CEMS), Brendan Fisher (ENR), Aaron Nichols (LIB), Mary Cushman (LCOM), Daniel Weiss (LCOM), Bikki Smith (Nursing and Health Science, Muhammed Adeel Arif (Graduate Student Senate), Nolan Blessington (Student Government Association), Lakelyn Taylor (Post Doc Association).

The committee meet 8 times, the first being on September 14, 2023 and the last being May 9, 2024.

### CHARGE OF THE RSCA

This committee is responsible for matters relating to research activities, scholarly work, and creative and performing arts carried out at the University, including graduate education and items referred to in Sections 1.1c, 1.2b, 1.2g, and 1.2k in the Faculty Senate bylaws. The RSCA reviews, recommends, and participates in the formulation of policy with respect to resources related to these activities, including physical facilities and allocation of appurtenant space, library resources and resources for graduate programs, and makes recommendations to assure effective use of these resources. The RSCA serves as liaison between the Senate and the administration on such matters as, but not limited to the broad role of the University in advancing knowledge through research, scholarship, and the performing arts; external and internal support for encouraging these activities, including graduate and undergraduate research; intellectual property, and technology transfer; ethical issues and issues affecting the academic environment as these arise in research or scholarly work. The RSCA consults frequently with other University and collegiate committees that are charged to initiate, maintain, and monitor institutional support programs for research, scholarship, the creative arts, and graduate education, as well as maintains close liaison with appropriate administrative offices in its areas of responsibility.

### KEY RSCA ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Representation of the Committee to UVM entities. Thomas Borchert and Evan Eyler worked as co-chairs during the fall 2023 semester while Jennifr Hurley was on leave. Jennifer Hurley was chair for spring 2024.

#### **Meeting Topics**

#### **Water Institute**

Beverly Wemple presented a slide deck showing the need, development, and The RSCA reviewed and discussed the proposal for the Water Institute during the October meeting. The committee had all positive feedback on the proposal. There was a movement to approve the proposal of the Water Institute. The motion passed and the RSCA forwarded the approved proposal on the Water Institute to the Faculty Senate for a vote and was approved.

### **Libraries Search System**

Dean Geffert & Molly Rogers. Molly Rogers, the web services librarian gave the committee an overview on the library services migration. Along with the migration UVM has joined the Boston Library Consortium, it a group that works together to make things easier for the whole. Other schools include Middlebury, Wesleyan, Trinity, and Connecticut College. Resources will be shared between schools. Cat Quest will get a new look and Molly provided the committee with a behind the scenes preview.

### **Graduate College**

Dean Hoock shared the initiatives being launched in the Graduate College, professional development and founding the university's office of Postdoctoral Affairs in the Graduate College. Dean Hoock is scheduled to come to the May RSCA meeting.

### **Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Costs**

Pablo Boise, Associate Dean for Research and Education in the College of Arts and Sciences came to discuss F&A costs. The committee discussed how F&A is charged at different rates negotiated with federal agencies and it is treated differently in different colleges.

### **OVPR**

Kirk Dombrowski, Vice President for Research, visited the committee in March. Multiple topics were discussed including:

- F&A,
- international research
- cost sharing on grants.

### **Visiting Undergraduates**

Tessa Lucy visited the committee in April and provided an update regarding how undergraduates from other universities will be able to participate in research at UVM:

- steps have been taken to ensure they have access to CAT cards, building access and labs.

### **Complex Systems**

Alexa Woodward & Chris Danforth visited the RSCA in April and provided an update on the Complex Systems.

-Timeline overview from the start of the complex systems in 2006, spire of excellence, PhD I Complex systems, gifts, and funding from sources such as NSF, MassMutual, VERSE and LEMURS

-Shared goal of Vermont Complex Systems becoming a campus wide research resource under the Vice President for Research.

### **Research Data Management Policy**

Members of the RSCA reviewed the new/draft Research Data Management Policy. Some members had concerns about the change to language regarding data ownership, specifically, “University owns all research data created or acquired by university employees, including faculty, staff, student employees, and post-docs, regardless of funding source, unless otherwise stated in this policy or other University policy.”