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Monday, September 16, 2019

Faculty Senate Conference Room 327 Waterman

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h Richard Branda, Mary Jane Dickerson, Alan Gottlieb (via phone), Michael Gurdon, Jack McCormack, Lee Thompson

° Jeanine Carr, Fred Curran, Steve Cutler, Beth Mintz, Lee Thompson

\ Chair Jack McCormack called the meeting to order

1. Minutes of August 27, 2019, approved as amended
2. RFAO Board Meeting

- There was a discussion of the planned election of Officers. It was noted that the RFAO constitution indicates that a president, vice president, secretary treasurer and 5 other members should be elected at a spring semiannual meeting for a term of 2 years. However, it was the feeling of the board at that time that there were valid reasons to delay the elections: namely until after the new university president was in place and because several current board members and potential officers were meeting of the membership on September 19, 2019, with an explanation for the need for a fall election. Nominations for Executive Board membership will be solicited from the general membership.
- The officer nominees will be: Michael Gurdon, president; Beth Mintz and Jeanine Carr, co vice presidents; and Richard Branda, secretary treasurer. Jack McCormack will become an , full voting member of the board as Past President.
- Mary Jane Dickerson and Alan Gottlieb expressed a willingness to continue to serve on the board.
- The board hoped to recruit an information officer to the board. There was also an interest in recruiting new board members, and Judith Van Houten was suggested.
- Jack McCormack reported that there have been 25 responses to the general meeting call so far. Since a quorum of membership regarding issues of conc

ways that the RFAO can be of help. Examples of topics for disc ated.

Plans for future meetings include a further discussion of softw

are access by Julia

Russell and an invitation to President Garimella to speak at the spring meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Richard Branda

General Meeting, Retired Faculty and Administrative Officers

Waterman Memorial Lounge

September 19, 2019

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Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Faculty Senate Conference Room 327 Waterman

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h Richard Branda, Fred Curran, Mary Jane Dickerson, Alan Gotlieb (via Skype), Michael Gurdon, Beth Mintz, Jack McCormack, Lee Thompson

° Jeanine Carr, Steve Cutler

\ Chair Michael Gurdon called the meeting to order at 12:30pm

1. Minutes of Board Meeting, September 16, 2019, approved.
2. Minutes of General Meeting, September 19, 2019, approved.
3. RFAO Board Meeting
 - Retired Scholars Awards. Past president Jack McCormack reported that six applications were submitted for funding. It was noted that the awards are for a maximum of \$2,500. A Sub Committee was formed, consisting of Beth Mintz, Mary Jane Dickerson, Michael Gurdon, and Lee Thompson. The Provost's Office will appoint an active faculty member to the Sub Committee. The applications will be distributed to the Sub Committee for review and then discussed at a meeting on October 29, 2019, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm for committees, libraries and research positions with substantial pay. In addition, the Board has not seen the section of the consultant's report relevant to retiree parking. Bill Barr will be contacted regarding the report and when and to whom it will be submitted.
 - o Access to Bookstore Discounts for software. The Board is anticipating a meeting with Julia Russell, Ph.D., regarding making available software access at reduced cost to retirees.
 - o Website management and HERMES Newsletter. Since Dwight Matthews has offered to assist with the website, the Board agreed that he should be invited to join the Board as Chief Information Officer and attend a meeting soon. With his input, the Board will consider options for presenting information from the Board to the membership. This probably will be mainly website based and by e-mail. However, the possibility was discussed of a printed newsletter summary being distributed by mail or as a handout at a luncheon meeting.
 - o Access to Recreational Facilities. After further discussion, the Board decided that this is often an issue unique to an individual, rather than to the membership generally, and should be dealt with on an individual basis.
 - o

Retirement Plan Changes. The Faculty Senate will hear a presentation at its January meeting by Richard Cate regarding the method for selecting the investment options for the retirement plans. Chair Gurdon will attend this meeting and report back to the Board, but he invites any interested members to attend as well.

4. Vision Care as benefit. The active members of the faculty were offered vision care benefits but these were not extended to the retired faculty. The ostensible reason was the attendant administrative difficulties and costs. Chair Gurdon has made further enquires, and will schedule a meeting on Tuesday, October 29th, from 11:30 noon, with Wanda Heading Grant from Human Resources regarding this issue. Jack McCormack and Lee Thompson will also attend. It was suggested that Dave Dummit also be invited to attend, since he has taken an interest in these matters.
5. Other Issues. Chair Gurdon reported that he has discussed possible Board membership with Judith Van Houten, and she expressed a willingness to serve. The Board unanimously agreed that she should be offered membership.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 2pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for: November 19, 2019

Respectfully submitted, Richard Branda

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Thursday, November 21, 2019 (date change due to weather on November 19)

Faculty Senate Conference Room 327 Waterman

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h Alan Gottlieb, Jeanine Carr, Beth Mintz, Mary Jane Dickerson, Fred Curran, Michael Gurdon, Judith Van Houten, Stephen
Cutler, Jack McCormack

° Lee Thompson, Richard Branda, Dwight Matthews

\ Chair Michael Gurdon called the meeting to order

1. Minutes of Board Meeting, October 19, 2 e Or t 1

January 21, 2020

Faculty Senate Conference Room 327 Waterman

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h Richard Branda, Jeanine Carr, Fred Curran, Stephen Cutler, Mary Jane Dickerson, Alan Gottlieb (via Skype), Michael Gurdon, Dwight Matthews, Beth Mintz, Jack McCormack, Lee Thompson, Judith Van Houten

o none

\ Chair Michael Gurdon called the meeting to order at 12:30pm

1. Minutes of November 21, 2019, approved as presented
2. RFAO Board Meeting
 - Faculty Senate Report (Michael Gurdon):
 - o A motion seeking Faculty Senate support to oppose stationing F-35 military jets in Burlington was offered and discussed. Although about 16-17 senators were in favor, the motion failed by one vote.
 - o Dean of Libraries Bryn Geffert presented information regarding the UVM contract with Science Direct, which will be up for renewal in December 2020. The contract for \$1.8 million/year gives access to a large number of academic journals but represents 25% of the collections budget. Therefore, the acquisition of other journals and of books is severely restricted. Alternatives to renewing the contract will be discussed with faculty at the departmental level, and may include open repositories, article sharing sites and interlibrary loans.
 - Beth Mintz reported that United Academics has added a representative from the RFAO to its Executive Committee as a non-voting member. Its constitution will be amended accordingly. The meetings are held approximately every 2 weeks from 1:15pm to 2:45pm in the social work conference room (4th floor Waterman). Beth attended the first meeting and mentioned mutual concerns of the RFAO and United Academics including parking, access to software and library resources, and health care. RFAO input should be helpful in the Committee's future deliberations and faculty to

scholarship.

ed correspondence from Simeon Anunity and that

support this extension.

departments to identify

that a relatively small

number of RFAO members may be affected and proposed that a survey be performed to establish that number. Jack McCormack reported that a limited survey 2 years ago found that about 10% of members were affected by this restriction.

- Chair Gurdon proposed that this item remain on the agenda for future meetings to identify approaches to attain our goal of increased software access for members.
- Dwight Matthews presented a list of UVM software, some of which are restricted for use by retired faculty and others that are not. Given time constraints at the present meeting, further discussion of this topic will be carried over to the February meeting.
- Retired Scholars Award Program. Beth Mintz presented a draft budget template, which was requested by the Provost's Office to add clarity to applications. The draft was accepted as amended after a brief discussion.
- Discussion of the RFAO websites. It was noted that currently there are two websites; one was designed by Lou Izzo but has not been updated in 2 to 3 years, and a more concise website prepared on a contract through the Provost's Office. Dwight Matthews reported that he is in conversations with Jim Vigoreaux from the Provost's Office regarding ways that the RFAO website can be updated and improved. He asked that RFAO board members bring suggestions for content to the next board meeting.
- New Business.
 - Chair Gurdon will miss the next meeting, which will be chaired by Co Vice Chair Carr.
 - The spring luncheon meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 3rd.
 - It was suggested that a representative from HR attend a future meeting to discuss the high cost of the J health care plan.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

February 18, 2020

Faculty Senate Conference Room 327 Waterman

MINUTES

Present: Richard Branda, Jeanine Carr, Fred Curran, Stephen Cutler, Dwight Matthews, Jack McCormack, Lee Thompson, Judith Van Houten

Absent: Mary Jane Dickerson, Alan Gottlieb, Michael Gurdon, Beth Mintz,

Call to Order: Vice Co Chair Jeanine Carr called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

1. Minutes of January 21, 2020, were approved.
2. RFAO Board Meeting
 - Faculty Senate Report: Jack McCormack
 - An ad hoc Committee will be charged by the Senate Executive Council to perform a comprehensive Conferral of about 200 degrees in various colleges
 - A resolution requesting UVM and affiliated institutions create a plan to divest from fossil fuels.
 - An outline of a plan to assess the Residential Learning Community was presented with a goal to complete the assessment for the April Senate meeting.
 - An overview of the proposed Catamount Core Curriculum was presented. It is proposed to be 42 credits in three main areas: Liberal Arts, Core Skills, and Common Ground Values. Ad hoc committees will be formed to refine each proposed category.
 - United Academics Report: Jeanine Carr reported on attending 2 meetings of UA
 - One meeting was devoted to discussion of revision of its constitution
 - During the second meeting there were discussions of the relationship of UA to other organizations and unions and the need for a policy regarding endorsement of issues such as climate change.
 - It was noted that retirees are eligible to join AAUP and AFT as affiliated members by paying dues directly to these organizations.
 - Retirees who were part of the bargaining unit can maintain their affiliation with UA by paying dues.
 - Discussion of RFAO Website: Dwight Matthews
 - Dwight is in discussions with the Provost's Office regarding control of the site. The goal is that either the Committee controls the site and content, or

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

May 7, 2020

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MINUTES

Present: k " K # 7 # o # U K) " 8
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Absent:

Call to Order: # U 8 U

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