RFAO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

September 18, 2024

MedEd 304 in person and Video Conference on ZOOM

MINUTES

Present: Taka Ashikaga, Ralph Budd, Richard Branda, Ruth Farrell, Alan Gotlieb, Michael Gurdon, Judith Van Houten, Rachel Johnson, Dwight Matthews, Beth Mintz, Alison Pechenick, Mara Saule, Lee Thompson

Absent: none

Call to Order: Chair Michael Gurdon called the meeting to order at 3:03pm

1. Minutes of August 21, 2024, approved
2. Faculty Senate Report (Mara) The Faculty Senate met on August 26, 2024 (in person) to   he follow
   a. Ron Lumbra, chair of the UVM Boa
      presidential search process. Preside
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      committee to be seated by the end of September. A faculty panel
      members' respective schools/colleges, will provide input to the se
      search process will be accelerated and candidates held in close co
      throughout. The goal is to have a president named in the spring.
   b. To provide early Senate input into the qualities desired in the new
      Senators formed small groups to discuss desired presidential qua
      identify the top one or two initiatives on which the new presiden
      Those will be shared with the Board of Trustees.
   c. Following the presidential search discussion, Senate president Bo
      an overview of Senate structure and functions, geared toward ne
   d. Finally, the Complex Systems Center directors presented a draft p
      Vermont Complex Systems Institute. A full proposal will be preser
      with Senate review anticipated in the fall of 2025.
   e. The next Senate meeting will be held virtually through Teams on
      As always, the Senate website has full minutes and agendas of me
3. United Academics Update (Beth)
   a. UA is still in contract negotiations heading toward impasse. Whe
      declared, the points of least agreement will be made public but th

      surprising.
   b. Presidential search: Mara covered it well in her summary of Senate meeting
      remarks by Ron Lumbra. UA discussion adds that this new search procedure (same
      as used in last Presidential recruitment) lacks the broad campus input that used to
      characterize these searches.

4. Invited guest, Christopher Lehman, Chief Human Resources Officer (arrived around 3:15). Discussion with Chris indicated that:
    a. BC/BS Advantage and United Health Care responded to the request for proposals to provide health care coverage to retirees when the current contract with Cigna expires on December 31st. The University did not solicit a proposal for a Medicare supplement program because of tim

underwriting for Medicare Advantage plans Thus initially they could not be excluded but may not be able to transfer among plans later. Will coverage be the same or similar to the health care plan for active faculty? Chris felt that the current plan for active faculty is not sustainable indefinitely so it would be hard to match active faculty and retiree plans. Will premiums be adjusted for inflation going forward? The amount of UVM contribution to the premium is still under consideration.

5. Identifying a speaker to headline our AGM (aiming for the first week of November). Chair Gurdon is checking on the availability of Memorial Lounge for dates around November 8th. There will be no elections; the agenda will include a report by Chair Gurdon, an opportunity to answer questions from members, and a guest speaker. A small honorarium may be available. Discussion revolved around inviting a scientist or a health economist.

6. Other business.
    a. There was further discussion of ways to improve communication between UVM and our members. Rachel consulted Jane Okech who recommended that Dwight work with Susan Davis to facilitate more rapid communication.
    b. UVM Foundation has announced that Linda Shadler was appointed as Interim Provost.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24pm

The next meeting is scheduled for: **October 16, 2024 at 2pm**

Respectfully submitted, Richard Branda