A meeting of the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources (EPIR) Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Friday, October 25, 2019 at 10:15 a.m., in the Livak Ballroom, 417-419 Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Carolyn Dwyer, President Suresh Garimella¹, John Bartholomew, Otto Berkes, Frank Cioffi, Johannah Donovan,² Jodi Goldstein, David Gringeri, Curt McCormack, Carol Ode, Shap Smith, and Samuel Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chair Cynthia Barnhart

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Faculty Representatives Chris Burns and Laura Almstead³, Staff Representatives Amanda McIntire and Sarah Heath, Alumni Representative Afi Ahmadi, Student Representatives Jamie Benson and Ethan Foley, and Graduate Student Representatives Kenna Rewcastle and Berke Tinaz

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Foundation Representative Wolfgang Mieder and Faculty Representative Mary Cushman

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Interim Provost and Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock, Chief Information Officer Simeon Ananou, Vice Provost for Student Affairs Annie Stevens, Career Center Director Pamela Gardner, Executive Director of the Center for Health and Wellbeing Harry Chen, Director of Counseling and Psychiatry Services Carrie Fleider, Director of Residential Life Rafael Rodriguez, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Jennifer (J.) Dickinson, Vice President Human Resources, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Wanda Heading-Grant, and Executive Director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment Alexander Yin

¹ Left the meeting at 11:21 a.m.
² Joined the meeting at 11:34 a.m.
³ Joined the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Chair Carolyn Dwyer called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m. and welcomed new graduate student representative Berke Tinaz.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 17, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes as presented.
Routine and Annual Reports

Chair Dwyer provided an opportunity for Committee members to offer comments and ask questions pertaining to written reports pre-distributed in the meeting materials. Interim Provost Patricia Prelock offered highlights from her report emphasizing future goals for strong graduation rates, the implementation of Elevate (a new non-credit student information system), strengthening the university’s undergraduate tuition revenue stream, UVM’s research portfolio, and a continued commitment for student success. She then introduced UVM’s new Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, J. Dickinson.

The Committee further discussed graduation rates with the Provost, who noted that students are doing more in summer months in order to better stay on track for timely graduation, including using the summer to engage in research opportunities, take classes, and participate in internships. Similarly, students are enrolling in shorter term study abroad or travel study courses during winter and spring breaks and in the summer, in order to get an international experience while remaining on track to graduate in four years. The President added that work needs to be done to expand on-line courses for students to take at UVM while studying abroad. Questions regarding how success after graduation is measured and tracked were addressed.

Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Updates

- Vice Provost for Student Affairs Annie Stevens, Executive Director of the Center for Health and Wellbeing Harry Chen, and Director of Counseling and Psychiatry Services Carrie Fleider presented a progress report on student mental health needs (ERM risk #15), providing national context, and current steps being taken to expand access to care providers, intervention strategies for education and assessment, and future initiatives.
- Vice Provost Stevens and Director of Residential Life Rafael Rodriguez presented a progress report on strengthening, promoting, and assessing residential learning communities (ERM opportunity #10), providing a timeline, learning community themes, engagement indicators for improving student retention and satisfaction, and refining faculty involvement.
- Chief Information Officer Simeon Ananou provided a brief update referencing his written report on ERM opportunity #13: create data warehouse. Enterprise Technology Services and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment have established a prototype data warehouse that allows for improved access to data, increasing awareness and transparency. A working group has been tasked to develop an inventory of data marts and models, and will make recommendations for creating data governance to formalize long-term strategies for data reporting and analytics.

Academic Program Review (APR)

Associate Provost for Academic Affairs J. Dickinson and Faculty Representative Laura Almstead presented an overview of the academic program review process. Associate Provost Dickinson identified strengths and challenges in the APR process and how improvements are being made through training and assessment planning.
Annual Diversity Report/Presentation

Prior to offering highlights from her report, Vice President of Human Resources, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Wanda Heading-Grant recognized the 20th anniversary of the Prism Center. Executive Director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment Alexander Yin joined Vice President Heading-Grant to offer highlights of the results of the 2019 UVM campus climate survey and the university’s next steps.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Dwyer, Chair