

## General Meeting, Retired Faculty and Administrative Officers

November 5, 2021

Waterman Memorial Lounge and videoconference on Zoom

### MINUTES

1. A quorum of 30 members was present: 12 in person and 18 on videoconference.
2. President Michael Gurdon called the meeting to order at 3:03pm. He welcomed the group and made introductory comments in a President's Report.
  - I. He noted that during the pandemic the RFAO board continued its activities wide H v and met with representatives of BC/BS to review issues that arose during implementation of the new plan. While the Board acknowledged that the plan offered financial benefits to both retirees and the University, members note A Ag i noted that there has been improvement of performance generally and there will be no increase in premiums for 2022. Some shortcomings for vision care in the plan (for example, in relation to the purchase of frames and lenses) can be partially offset by a new plan being offered to retirees by the University through VSP Vision Care.
  - III. Despite several meetings with Richard Cate and Simeon Ananou, access to software by retirees remains an issue. While many retirees continue to engage in research and teaching and perform other activities such as fund raising and committee membership that are beneficial to the University, retirees have had limited access to software. The University does not consider retirees as affiliates for the purpose of software licensing.
  - IV. A representative of the RFAO has been added to the executive committee of United Academics, the faculty union, as a non voting member. This position has provided information about pending issues.
  - V. After a pause due to the pandemic, the President's Luncheon was held in August.
  - VI. The Retired Scholars Award, funding of which was suspended in 2020 because of budgetary uncertainties, will resume this year. Proposals should be submitted by November 22
3. An election of officers and executive board members. There are 8 elected members and 6 *ex officio* members.
  - I. Officer nominees and academic affiliations are:
    - a. Michael Gurdon, Business Administration, president
    - b. Beth Mintz, Sociology, vice president
    - c. Richard Branda, Medicine, secretary treasurer
  - II. Nominees for the board are:
    - a. Alan Gottlieb, Plant and Soil Science
    - b. Steve Cutler, Sociology
    - c. Rachel Johnson, Nutrition and Food Science
    - d. Lee Thompson, English
    - e. Alison Pechenick, Computer Science

The election was for 2 year terms, with no limitation to the number of terms. A motion to endorse the slate of candidates passed without objection.

4. Revision of the Constitution. Consideration of revisions to the Constitution was moved and seconded. President Gurdon noted that the pandemic has affected the activities of the committee and its ability to conform to the Constitution. After review of the Constitution by a subcommittee consisting of Ruth Farrell, Steve Cutler and Judith Van Houten, several changes were suggested to update the document. The major changes include:
  - I. "Officers of Administration" is changed to "administrative officers" because the former has a particular and very restricted definition at UVM. The new term is more inclusive.
  - II. More specific goals are included.
  - III. Board election timing is changed to an annual business meeting.
  - IV. There will be electronic balloting open to the entire membership. Ballots will be sent out in advance of the meeting.
  - V. The annual meeting will include at distance participation.
  - VI. Regarding *ex officio*