

## Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

### MEMO

**To:** The UVM Faculty Senate

**From:** Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Laura Almstead, Chair

**Date:** February 3, 2016

**Re:** Items approved by the Curricular Affairs Committee that do not require a Faculty Senate vote

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#### Request to Add a Residential Option to the B.S. in Health Sciences

The B.S. in Health Sciences program HSCI was approved in March of 2015 as a major available on-line for non-residential students only. Although the original proposal included options for both residential and non-residential students, issues regarding financial aid arose due to the differences in tuition paid by residential students versus students enrolled through Continuing and Distance Education (CDE). With the recent changes in budgetary structure and roles, the program is now fully managed by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) without tuition discounts. Students enrolled in the B.S. in HSCI pay full tuition and fees, and are classified as fully matriculated CNHS students. This was verified in a letter from Marie Johnson, Director of Student Financial Services. Based on this, the Department of Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences and CNHS put forth a request to extend the B.S. in HSCI to include a residential option in addition to the current on-line program.

Since establishment of the B.S. in HSCI, several current UVM undergraduate students have expressed interest. HSCI classes are currently available to all UVM students and enrollments have been strong. The expansion of this major to include a traditional residential option will be attractive to students desiring to enroll in a major at UVM that helps them meet future plans for a career in health. The curricular requirements originally proposed and approved in March 2015 will remain the same. At the request of the Curricular Affairs Committee, a detailed plan for advising residential students was provided. Letters of support were obtained from the Deans of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, the College of Education and Social Services, the Rubenstein School for the Environment and Natural Resources, and the Larner College of Medicine.

#### Request to Establish a New Summer Internship Option

Increasingly, and in order to comply with U.S. Department of Labor regulations, employers offering unpaid internships require the internship to be undertaken for academic credit. It can be difficult for students to meet the financial challenge of both forfeiting summer salary and paying summer tuition. As a result, summer internships are not possible for some students. In an effort to increase the internship options for students that wish to gain valuable experience and build their resumes, the Provost's Office put forth a proposal to establish a new option that would apply to unpaid, elective, summer internships. An internship must meet all three criteria to utilize the new option. Additionally, all expectations set forth in the Policy for

Academic Internships apply. Under the new option, students will register for internship credit under a University-wide prefix (tentatively set as INIT). Credits associated with the course will be charged at a rate of \$100 per credit, and will not count toward degree requirements. Students who participate in the new option will graduate with greater than the 120 credits necessary to graduate, and thus the new option will in no way reduce the rigor of students' overall academic programs or substitute for other degree requirements.

Administrative F Policy (CAC vote of support)

Under current policy, UVM students are assigned a failing grade in a course if faculty do not submit final grades by the established deadline. The administratively assigned grades have the same computational and curricular consequences as those assigned due to a lack of acceptable performance. This obviously causes students considerable stress and can jeopardize students' financial aid eligibility and/or their ability to continue in certain programs. The CAC considered a proposal from the Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning, Brian Reed, to establish an operational policy that would designate non-passing grades of F, UP (Unsatisfactory Progress), and NP (No Pass) assigned administratively as AF, UP, and NP, respectively. This will allow them to be easily distinguished from non-passing grades assigned due to unacceptable performance in a course. Because the proposed policy is operational in nature, it does not require approval by the CAC. However, the CAC voted unanimously in support of the proposal.