The UNIVERSITY of VERMONT

FACULTY SENATE

Executive Council
Minutes
November 14, 2016 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Waterman 427A

Present: Professors Almstead, Barnaby, Beckage, Carney, Chittenden, Danks, Feurzeig, Gurdon, Mehrtens, Paris, Pechenick, Rodgers

Absent: Professors Burns, Prue

Guests: none

The meeting was called to order at 4:02p.m. in Waterman 427A.

1. **Approval of October 10, 2016 Minutes**. The minutes were approved as written.

2. **Chair's Remarks.** President Paris was very pleased with the success of the IBB forum. It reflected the good work of the Faculty Senate. At the November Faculty Senate meeting Richard Cate will give a presentation on the current state of the budget at UVM. It is mandated in the Faculty Senate Bylaws to get a state of the Budget review yearly. This is a great opportunity for the faculty to familiarize themselves with the university budget.

3. **Curricular Affairs Report.**

   A. Consent Agenda Vote.

   B. Degree Requirement Changes, BS in Computer Science and in Computer Science and Information Systems.

   The Executive Council discussed the changes to Computer Science degree requirements that have recently come to the attention of the Educational Stewardship Committee (ESC). The changes were concerning in two respects:

   First, they exceeded the 40% threshold, which should have triggered review by the Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC). Second, they have the potential to impact another

unit, as they reduce the number of courses/credits that CS students are required to take in the College of Arts and Sciences. The former is being addressed by the CAC; the latter, by the ESC.

How to avoid similar issues in the future? Laura will make a presentation at the January Senate meeting to make senators aware of the "40% rule," which stipulates that changes to an academic program of greater than 40% must be reviewed by the CAC. She is also drafting a document to clarify this rule, which will be posted on the Senate website. Laura is increasing information flow between unit curriculum committees and the CAC by meeting with the chairs individually.

With respect to the question of curricular changes that impact another unit, the Provost will instruct the deans to talk with one another about curricular changes in one unit that will impact another.

The executive committee moved and seconded a motion to have the ESC put on a future agenda to further discuss its role in the Faculty Senate.

4. **Brief follow-up on the topic of graduate student participation in Senate Committee work.** Last Executive meeting there was a discussion about the inclusion of Graduate Students as representatives on Faculty Senate Committees. It was decided it was up to each committee to decide if they would invite a Graduate Student. Also it is up to the committee to the degree of the student's participation. Both the President and the Vice President of the GSS sent Cathy their thanks for allowing students on committees. They were very appreciative of the inclusion they have received.

5. **Perception that central administration advertises its own initiatives as faculty-driven**

   The Senate Executive Council discussed the perception, expressed by one or two of its members, that the central administration promotes its own initiatives as faculty-driven. Possible examples of such include:

   - The first-year experience course
   - The Spires of Excellence
   - The Institute on Environment
   - IBB

   It may be that in some cases, the Administration promotes initiatives as being more faculty driven than they truly are.

6. **Idea: circulate draft Senate meeting minutes early to Exec members to facilitate communication between Senate and our academic units**.

a. The committee would like to send a meeting recap to all faculty after each Faculty Senate meeting. This could come from the Executive members or the Faculty Senate Office.

7. **Idea: send notice that the minutes and agenda for the next Senate meeting are posted to the faculty as a whole.**
   a. The committee thinks that this would be a good way to get the information to more people. The minutes and agendas are always posted on the Faculty Senate Website however by sending an e-mail it may remind faculty to look at them.

8. **November 28 Senate meeting agenda**
   - Minutes of the October 24 meeting (2min)
   - Senate President's Remarks (5min)
   - President and Provost's Remarks (5min)
   - Educational Stewardship Committee (15min)
     o Brian Reed and Rosemary Dale to address the Senate.
   - SAC on Academic Integrity (This was moved to the December meeting)
   - Richard Cate on Budget
   - CAC Business
   - Senate Committee Report
     o RSCA in November, SAC in December, CAC in January. ERTC would like to go in December as David will be on sabbatical in Spring 2017. FPPC will also go in Spring 2017.
   - New Business (5min)
   - Adjourn

9. Agenda for P&P Meeting Thursday, November 17, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
   - Implication of the election for higher education and UVM in general.
   - Inside Higher Education article about Cornell launching an effort to evaluate shadow work
   - The Provost's view of the ESC
   - Thoughts on the Sports Arena, and fundraising priorities. (This is something that could be added to a future P&P agenda)

10. **New Business**. Course releases are becoming an issue for some deans, it is getting in the way of service. This can be added to the call for agenda items for the December meeting. Alison will send her thoughts to Cathy.

    Resolution Affirming the Senate commitment to the values expressed in Our Common Ground. Alison will write up a resolution and circulate it for approval.

11. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

MEMO

To: The UVM Faculty Senate

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

Date: November 4, 2016

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

---

New Crime and Criminal Justice Concentration in the Sociology Major
Submitted by: College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)

The Sociology Department has observed increased interest in the crime, justice, and criminology courses they currently offer. Additionally, the Admissions Office indicates that incoming and perspective students routinely inquire about criminal justice as an area of study.

Completion of the new Crime and Criminal Justice Concentration will require four approved courses (12 credits), at least two of which must be at the 100-level or above. All of the approved courses are currently being taught; no new courses are anticipated. The list of approved courses includes one zero-level, three 100-level, and four 200-level, thus there are many options for students who wish to complete the concentration. Credits earned in appropriate internship, special topics, or Honors College courses can also be counted towards completion of the concentration. Dr. Eleanor Miller, a faculty member who teaches some of the courses, will act as the advisor for the concentration.

The new concentration was approved by the Department of Sociology, the CAS Curriculum Committee, and the CAS faculty.

New Cybersecurity Track in the Computer Software Certificate
Submitted by: College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (CEMS)

The Computer Software Certificate is a non-degree, academic certificate offered by the Computer Science Department in conjunction with Continuing and Distance Education. The primary audience for certificates such as this are non-UVM students, though UVM students can also enroll. Currently, there are three tracks in the Computer Software Certificate – Web Development, Software Development, and Computer Science Masters Preparation. Students can also pursue a self-designed track.

Information Technology roles are growing at a very aggressive pace and the associated growth of cybersecurity positions is staggering. Thus, there is an increased need for trained in the area of cybersecurity. The Cybersecurity track supports the needs of the growing job market in this area and complements the existing tracks in the Computer Software certificate. Completion of the Cybersecurity Track requires five courses (15 credits). Courses include two required zero-level courses, one 100-level

(chosen from two approved courses), and two additional courses selected from a list of approved courses (two zero-level, two 100-level, three 200-level). All courses are currently being taught or are in the final stages of approval.

The new track was approved by the Computer Science Curriculum Committee, the CEMS Curriculum Committee, and the CEMS faculty.

Changes to the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Computer Science and the BS in Computer Information Systems Curriculum

Beginning this Fall, the Computer Science Department implemented changes to the BS in Computer Science and the BS in Computer Information Systems. These changes included removal of the Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences distribution requirements (18 credits) and a requirement for a minor from the BS in Computer Science, and removal of the Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences distribution requirements (18 credits) from the BS in Computer Information Systems. Changes to required courses were also made, the most substantial of which was including additional Computer Science Courses (both majors), and adjusting Business Administration course requirements (Computer Information Systems only).

The removal of the distribution requirements and minor requirement from the BS in Computer Science, and the removal of the distribution requirement from the BS in Computer Information Systems were brought to the attention of the Educational Stewardship Committee (ESC), a joint committee between the Provost's Office and the Faculty Senate. The ESC observed that the changes to the BS in Computer Science appeared substantial enough that they should have been reviewed by the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) under the normal procedures for Substantial Revisions to Academic, Scholarly, or Service Endeavors (formerly Appendix B). The matter of whether the changes were made in violation of these procedures was referred to the CAC.

Upon review, the CAC agreed that the changes to the BS in Computer Science should have been reviewed by the CAC under the normal procedures for substantial revisions to existing programs. The Chair of the Computer Science Department, Margaret Eppstein, was asked to provide a memo to the CAC describing and justifying the changes. The memo indicated that the changes were made to address curricular gaps, and to better prepare students for careers or graduate school in computer science. With the addition of six credits of Computer Science courses, the Department felt that they no longer had room for the Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences distribution requirement, or the required minor for the BS in Computer Science, because they wanted to keep the total credit requirements to 120 in order to make it possible for CS majors to graduate in four years. The memo indicated that the Department felt that the University-wide General Education requirements provided breadth in the curriculum, and removal of the distribution requirements allowed the students more flexibility to choose courses within their areas of interest as free electives. The Department also felt that the increase in Computer Science credits brings them more in line with the requirements for BS in Computer Science programs at other institutions.

Given the justifications and the fact that the changes were published in the 2016-2017 Catalog, and thus binding for students entering UVM this year, the CAC agreed to waive a full review and allow the changes be shared with the Faculty Senate according to the normal procedure for substantial changes to existing programs.