

Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

MEMO

To: The UVM Faculty Senate

From: Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Colby Kervick and Stephen Everse, Co-Chairs

Date: January 5, 2024

Re: No Contest Deactivation of the Clinical Nurse Leader Program

On January 4, 2024, the Curricular Affairs Committee unanimously approved the No Contest Deactivation of the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) Program.

The CAC reviewed a proposal from the Department of Nursing in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) for a no-contest deactivation of the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) graduate program due to a history of low to no enrollment. Since its inception, the Clinical Nurse Leader program has experienced very low or no enrollment. From 2016 (when the program started) through 2023, just 11 students received degrees. The demand for this program no longer justifies the resources required to sustain it. Continuing the Clinical Nurse Leader program consumes departmental resources, including faculty time, facilities, and financial support. There are seven dedicated CNL courses, totaling 9.75 student credit hours and 500 hours of project related practicum. Reallocating resources to more in-demand programs will allow the program to enhance the overall quality of the other graduate nursing programs. Further, the field of nursing education and practice has evolved significantly since the inception of the CNL program. The Department has proposed a new program, Direct Entry to Master of Science in Nursing (see additional proposal at this meeting), which they believe will have broader appeal and align with the changing needs of students, practice partners, the state of Vermont, and the health care industry.

The CNL program suspended admissions as of Fall 2022. The proposal includes a plan to support the three students currently enrolled in the program. A three-year teach-out period will allow the students to finish their coursework and graduate by Spring 2027. The department will work with affected faculty members to reassign them to other classes.

There is strong support for the deactivation proposal. The Department of Nursing voted 31 in favor with one abstention to deactivate the program and the CNHS Curriculum Planning Committee concurred unanimously. CNHS Dean Noma Anderson and Graduate College Dean Holger Hock supported the deactivation proposal. No public comments were received during the 15-day circulation period. If approved by the Faculty Senate, the deactivation would go into effect during the 24-25 catalog year.