

## 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:** November 4, 2016

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

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#### 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.