

**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: September 2, 2016

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

New Early Childhood Content Concentration in the Early Childhood PreK-3 Education Program

Submitted by: College of Education and Social Services (CESS)

Rationale: The new Early Childhood Content Concentration was designed to address the content areas of a kindergarten through third grade elementary school teacher. All students in the program are required to complete a concentration in addition to the courses they take to develop the skills required to be successful teacher. Currently, all of the available concentrations are discipline specific (e.g. psychology, human development & family studies, chemistry). The new Early Childhood Content Concentration seeks to provide the background knowledge necessary to prepare students to teach in kindergarten through third grade classrooms. Students will be required to complete coursework in four fields – English language arts, math, science, and social studies – choosing 9 credits in each field from a list of approved courses (36 credits total). These content courses will complement pedagogy courses that focus on literacy, mathematics, inquiry-based science, and social studies, which are already part of the Early Childhood Pre-K3 Education Program. All of the courses already offered by the University and are already available to students in the Early Childhood PreK-3 program. The creation of the content concentration simply clarifies and organizes the courses so that the pathway is clearly defined.

The new concentration was approved by former CESS Interim Dean, Dr. Cynthia Gerstl-Pepin, the Department Chair, Dr. George Salembier, and the former Assistant Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Sha Bradley. The CESS Academic Affairs Committee also provided a memo of support.