



FACULTY SENATE

Minutes
March 10, 2014

Senators in Attendance: 50

Absent: Adams (Surgery), Ambaye (Pathology), Bosek (Nursing), Contompasis (Pediatrics), Couch (Surgery), Crockenberg (Emeriti), Feldman (Political Science), Green (Radiology), Hehir (Neuroscience), Heiss (CDAE), Liptek (Chemistry), Lounsbury (Pharmacology), Mehrtens (Geology), Mierse (Art), Mirchandani (Engineering), Schapiro (Anesthesiology), Smith (Education), Tyzbir (Nutrition & Food Sciences), Weiss (Medicine), Wilcox (Pathology), Wu (Rehabilitation & Movement Science), Beaudoin (FPPC), Galbraith (RSGE), Rodgers (PSC), Kaza (Vice President)

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- 1. Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes of February 10, 2014 were approved with corrections.
 - 2. Senate President's Remarks.** President Roberts began her remarks by reminding the senators that the general education first year writing and information literacy program will begin in the fall with the incoming class. Incoming first year students will be scheduled into these courses which will include some TAP sessions, and this may be a topic that comes up during advising sessions. President Roberts also reminded the senators that the Faculty Senate dinner will be held on Monday, April 7 in the Waterman Manor. Invitations have gone out, and senators are encouraged to RSVP as soon as possible.
 - 3. President & Provost Remarks.** Provost Rosowsky introduced members of the IBB Steering Committee for a presentation on the progress of the transition to the new budget model. He noted that the project is on track and all information may be found on the Provost's website which is up to date.

Members of the Steering Committee that presented the progress of the transition to IBB were Polly Parsons, Lisa Aultman-Hall, and Rick Vanden Burgh. The presentation outlined the major differences between the current budget model utilized by UVM and IBB including the concept of cost centers and the overall decentralized flow of funding. The presentation also gave some information on how interdisciplinary programs would fit into the new model. Finally, the presentation covered the idea of cost centers and how the cost center/cost pool model will operate at UVM. There are still some discussions that need to take place such as if space costs will be weighted, how debt will be distributed,

and how new debt will be handled. There was discussion about how UVM will maintain the smaller departments that add value and quality to the liberal arts education and atmosphere at the University. Provost Rosowsky and President Sullivan were clear that those things that are seen as a “commonality” such as the library, or benefit the University as a whole for the “collective good” will be maintained. In addition, because the level of analysis used in incentive based budgeting is at the school level, rather than the department, small departments that may not stand on their own based on credit hours will be considered as a part of a whole – not independently. Finally Provost Rosowsky reminded the Senate that there are existing procedures for altering or terminating programs that must go through the Faculty Senate. These procedures may be found on the Faculty Senate website “[Appendix C: Format for Proposals to Terminate an Academic Unit, Curriculum, Research, or Service Endeavor](#)”.

- 4. Curricular Affairs.** Cathy Paris presented one item of business that came from the Curricular Affairs Committee this month. The proposal is to revise the RN-BS program to accomplish the following changes:
- Change the delivery mode of 6 courses from interactive TV to online. This will increase flexibility for students taking these courses by eliminating the need to attend these classes in an interactive TV studio at a certain time. With an online delivery mode, students will be able to schedule their learning around their own calendar.
 - Remove the Masters progression from the formal degree title catalog description (RN-BS-MS); the program no longer offers this option.
 - Subsequently replace master’s level courses with undergraduate courses that have similar topics and course content.
- When put to a vote, this proposal passed.

- 5. General Education: Sustainability.** Laura Hill-Birmingham, and Deane Wang, co-chairs of the General Education Committee on Sustainability presented an update on their work to the Faculty Senate. Since their last presentation to the Faculty Senate, the committee has refined the sustainability learning outcomes. The most up to date version of the outcomes may be found in the “Final Report to the Faculty Senate – March 28, 2014” located at the top of the [Sustainable Learning Outcomes website](#).

There were a few questions about the implementation and assessment of the learning outcomes, one of which had to do with how these learning outcomes would be integrated into the existing curriculum. It was answered that the committee had previously done an inventory to assess which courses are already teaching components of these learning outcomes, and there is a broad selection of courses to choose from. The committee also noted that the course based approach isn’t the only way a student could meet all these learning objectives. There will also be other avenues such as the Eco Reps program, or other extracurricular activities that could accomplish the goal of meeting all the learning outcomes.

- 6. Presentation & Discussion of Academic Rigor.** John Ryan, Director of the Office of Institutional Research, presented data on academic rigor at the University of Vermont. After his presentation, a report with more in depth information was circulated among the

Senators. After having a few minutes to review the report, the Faculty Senators were asked to discuss the presentation and report in small groups. Feedback was collected and condensed by the Faculty Senate office ([Faculty Senate Feedback on Academic Rigor](#)).

7. New Business. There was no new business at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 pm.

Memo To: The Faculty Senate
From: The Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Cathy Paris, Chair
Date: February 24, 2014
Subject: Approval of a proposal for a revised RN-BS degree program in the Department of Nursing, College of Nursing and Health Sciences

The Curricular Affairs Committee at its meeting of February 13, 2014 unanimously approved the action recommended in the following memo.

The Department of Nursing, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, has submitted a proposal to revise its existing Registered Nurse-to-Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. This is a program designed for the working professional nurse, likely prepared at the associates' degree level, who wants to complete a baccalaureate degree program as a part-time student.

Rationale for the Program: The RN-BS in Nursing program seeks to remove barriers for registered nurses so that they may achieve higher levels of education to ensure the delivery of safe, patient-centered care across a diversity of health care settings. Patient care needs have become more complex in recent years, and nurses need to attain requisite competencies to meet the resultant challenges. Education should include opportunities for seamless transition into higher degree programs from all level of initial preparation, including from the associate's to the bachelor's degree.

Proposed Changes: The RN-BS program has been operating successfully for more than 20 years. Much of the program will remain unchanged. Recently, a set of six courses that had previously been offered via Vermont Interactive Television was converted to an online delivery mode. This change has proven popular with current and prospective students, as it offers greater scheduling flexibility and reduced travel time.

A second proposed change relates to the description of the program in the UVM catalog. In the current catalog it is described as "... an RN-BS-MS accelerated program, with an option for students to 'step out' after completion of the baccalaureate requirements with a B.S. degree." Henceforth the program will no longer present itself as an accelerated master's, but rather as a terminal bachelor's degree program.

Because the program will no longer provide accelerated entry into a master's degree program, a modest change in required courses is also proposed. Previously, students in the program took two Graduate Nursing courses, GRNU 310 and GRNU 315, which counted towards the requirements for a master's degree. However, as of this academic year, undergraduate students are no longer allowed to count graduate courses towards both a baccalaureate and a graduate degree, thus eliminating the benefit of taking graduate courses as part of an undergraduate program. Under the new plan, the two previously required Graduate Nursing

courses will be replaced by two undergraduate courses, PRNU 265 and PRNU 266, newly created for the program.

Program Structure: The RN-BS program requires 121 hours of study, including courses in professional nursing, statistics, natural and social sciences, and the humanities. Most applicants will enter the program with about half the required number of credits. A student with an associate's degree, taking two courses per semester, could expect to complete the program in three years including summers.

Advising: All students are assigned an academic advisor when admitted to the program. Faculty members are available in person, on-line, and by email. In addition to the assigned academic advisor, students have access to mentoring relationships with their clinical faculty as well. This remains unchanged with the proposed revision.

Program Costs: The budget that funds the current RN-BS program will support the revised program. There are no changes to the current budget associated with this revision.

Program Assessment: The RN-BS program will be reviewed and approved by the Vermont State Board of Nursing (VSBON) as well as accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, a national accrediting body. The program will also be reviewed internally through the University's academic program review process.

Proposal Review Process: A subcommittee of the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee was, on January 10, 2014, charged with the review of the RN-BS proposal. The review subcommittee met on January 29, 2014 to discuss the proposal and recommended its approval to the full CAC at its meeting of February 13, 2014. The CAC voted unanimously to approve the proposal.