

ANNUAL REPORT: Fall 2018 – Spring 2019

The Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) of the Faculty Senate met eight times during the 2018-2019 academic year. The February meeting was cancelled due to lack of matters requiring discussion.

Reviews of Proposals to Initiate, Alter, or Terminate an Academic Program:

During the current academic year, the Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate completed the review of a total of eleven proposals to initiate new academic programs (9) or significantly revise existing programs (2). Note that two proposals included two related actions.

- Approved a proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences for a new Bachelor of Arts in Dance
- Approved a proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences for a new Undergraduate Certificate in Community Music: Organ
- Approved a proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences for a new Bachelor of Science in Anthropology
- Approved a proposal from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Continuing and Distance Education for 1) a new Undergraduate Certificate in Integrative Health and Wellness Coaching and 2) a new Continuing Education Academic Certificate in Integrative Health and Wellness Coaching
- Approved a proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences for a new Minor in Reporting and Documentary Storytelling
- Approved a proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences for a new Undergraduate Certificate in Religious Literacy in Professions
- Approved a proposal from the College of Education and Social Services for a new Minor in Special Education: Endorsement
- Approved a proposal from the College of Education and Social Services for a new Minor in Computer Science Education
- Approved a proposal from the College of Education and Social Services to 1) establish a Bachelor of Social Work Degree at the University of Vermont and 2) transition the existing Bachelor of Science with a Major in Social Work to a Bachelor of Social Work degree
- Approved a request from the Department of Leadership and Developmental Sciences (Human Development and Family Studies Program) in the College of Education and Social Services to significantly revise the existing Continuing Education Certificate in Gerontology
- Approved a proposal from the College of Education and Social Services (CESS) to significantly revise the existing Individually Designed Major (IDM) available through CESS

Other Proposals Reviewed and Approved by the CAC

Twelve other proposals were reviewed and approved by the CAC. Note that two proposals included multiple related actions.

- Approved a request from the Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences for a new course prefix (BHSC)
- Approved a request from the Department of Community Development and Applied Economics in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to create three new concentrations in the Public Communications major: Strategic Communication, Communication Design, and Community Media + Journalism
- Approved a proposal from the Graduate College in conjunction with the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychological Sciences to allow students to directly apply to the existing Master of Arts in Psychology
- Approved a request from the Graduate College in conjunction with the College of Nursing and Health Sciences to add a direct entry program option (DCLN) for the existing Master of Science in Clinical Nurse Leader (MS-CLN)
- Approved a proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences to establish an online degree completion program designed for students who have earned some college-level credits, but do not yet have a bachelor's and are not currently enrolled at a college or university. Upon successful completion of the program, students will receive a Bachelor of Arts (BA) with a major in Anthropology and a Minor in either English or Writing
- Approved a request from the Department of Romance Languages and Linguistics in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) to change the name to the Department of Romance Languages
- Approved a request from the Graduate College in conjunction with the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences to change the name of the existing Certificate of Graduate Studies (CGS) in Complex Systems to the CGS in Complex Systems and Data Science
- Approved a request from the Directors of the Environmental Sciences Program for an uncontested termination of the Environmental Chemistry Concentration in the Environmental Sciences major
- Approved a proposal from the Department of Education in the College of Education and Social Services for a new Computer Science concentration in the existing Secondary Education major
- Approved a proposal from the Department of Nutrition and Food Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in conjunction with the Graduate College to transition the existing Master of Science in Dietetics (MSD) to an online program

- Approved proposals from the Department of Theatre and the Department of Music and Dance, both in the College of Arts and Sciences, to 1) change the name of the Department of Theatre to the Department of Theatre and Dance, and 2) change the name of the Department of Music and Dance to the Department of Music
- Approved a proposal from the Office of Community-University Partnerships and Service Learning (CUPS) to 1) revise the criteria for the current Service Learning (SL) course designation, and 2) establish a new Civic Learning (CL) course designation. The proposed changes will simultaneously raise the standards expected of SL courses and expand opportunities and incentives for community-engaged pedagogy. The CUPS office will accompany this change with faculty development activities designed to support newly-designated CL courses as pathways into rigorous service-learning, undergraduate community-based research, and faculty community-engaged scholarship

Additional Actions

- Reviewed a two-year update on the Minor in Behavioral Change Health Studies that began in fall 2016. When approved by the CAC in December 2015, we requested an update two years into the program that addressed 1) the enrollment history in the minor to date, 2) the identified learning outcomes, 3) results of preliminary assessments of the minor, 3) the strengths, challenges and opportunities for the minor moving forward, and 5) the future directions for the minor. Based on the information received, the CAC requested that the program develop a specific assessment plan that evaluated the minor as a whole rather than individual courses. A solid assessment plan was subsequently received. The CAC requested a second update based on the assessment plan in fall of 2019. Depending on the information received, a third update will be requested in fall 2010 or 2011.
- Revised curriculum documents related to development of new program proposals and substantial revisions to existing program proposals (see list below). The primary goal of the revisions was to bring the documents in line with the current standards for and culture of assessment at UVM. Other changes sought to provide greater clarity and remove references to out-of-date policies/documents. The revisions were approved by the CAC and Faculty Senate.
 - Guidelines for Proposals for New Academic Program or Research Endeavor
 - Guidelines for Proposals to Substantially Revise an Existing Academic Program or Research Endeavor
 - Substantial Revisions to Existing Academic and Research Endeavors: Approval Process and Definition
 - Guidelines for Proposals for Academic Minors
 - Guidelines for Proposals for Undergraduate Certificate Programs
- Worked with the Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning to revise the APR Preparations Guidelines document so that it reflects the current expectations for and culture of assessment at UVM. The revisions were approved by the CAC and Faculty Senate.

- Continued efforts to establish lines of communication between unit-level curriculum committees and the Curricular Affairs Committee. The primary goal is to increase awareness at the unit-level of the guidelines and approval process for new programs, and university-wide policies and approval processes relating to new course proposals, course revisions, and special topic courses. We recently revised the Unit Curriculum Committee Tips document developed in March 2017 and re-distributed it to all current unit curriculum committee chairs.
- Participated in the Educational Stewardship Committee (ESC; formerly the Strategic Curriculum Oversight Committee), a joint committee between the Provost's Office and the Faculty Senate. The purpose of the ESC is to ensure campus-wide good stewardship and coordination of the University's educational mission. The Committee is charged to provide recommendations to 1) safeguard the integrity of the University's educational mission with respect to stated tenets, particularly as those tenets may be impacted by the new incentive-based budget model (IBB); and 2) to provide recommendations to promote excellence in teaching and learning and the educational experience. The ESC has recently established a subcommittee charged to: 1) develop and propose a coherent set of subject categories across the core requirements of all the undergraduate schools and colleges, and 2) create a clear, easily understood framework for liberal education foundations that could supplement the four current General Education requirements, thereby effecting a plan for a comprehensive General Education program that can be considered by the academic units and the Faculty Senate. The CAC Chair is a member of this subcommittee.
- Continued to participate in the oversight of UVM's existing General Educational program, which includes Writing and Information Literacy, Diversity, Sustainability, and Quantitative Reasoning. The Chair of the CAC is a member of the recently established General Education Coordinating Committee.
- Collaborated with the Provost's Office to carry out Academic Program Reviews. CAC reviews and concluding Summary Meetings have been completed for all programs in Cycles 1 through 11 with the exception of five externally accredited programs that are reviewed under a different protocol. (See section below for additional details.)

Academic Program Reviews

Reviews were completed for seven programs; one is currently in progress.

Reviews completed this year:

- Art & Art History
- Geology
- Romance Languages & Linguistics
- Psychological Science
- Sociology
- German & Russian
- Global & Regional Studies

APR activity is underway for the following program:

- Human Development & Family Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies

Members of the Curricular Affairs Committee, 2018-2019

Laura Almstead	Garth Garrison	Jeffrey Marshall	Jennifer Sisk
Rosemary Dale	Andrew Goodwin	Erik Monsen	Jennifer Strickler
Jennifer (J) Dickinson	Ann Hazelrigg,	Aaron Nichols	Amy Tomas
Meaghan Emery	Adrian Ivakhiv	Joan (Rosi) Rosebush	Sharon Ultsch
Bob Erickson	Sue Kasser	Ellen Rowe	Christina Wojewoda
Stephen Everse	Colby Kervick	Amy Seidl	

Report submitted by Laura Almstead, Chair of the Curricular Affairs Committee, May 3, 2019.