

ANNUAL REPORT: Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

The Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) of the Faculty Senate met six times during the 2018-2019 academic year. An electronic vote was held in lieu of the February meeting; items voted on were discussed at the January meeting, but had not reached the end of their public comment periods. The March meeting was cancelled due to lack of matters requiring discussion, and the April meeting was cancelled to allow members to focus on the transition to online delivery.

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 nine proposals to initiate new academic programs (five), terminate existing programs (three), or significantly revise existing programs (one).

- Approved a request by the College of Education and Social Services in conjunction with the Graduate College to terminate the Master of Education in Reading and Language Arts
- Approved a request by the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Engineering
- Approved a proposal from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for a new Minor in Bioinformatics
- Approved a proposal from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for a new Minor in Biosecurity
- Approved a proposal from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences in conjunction with the Graduate College for a new Post-Professional Doctorate of Occupational Therapy
- Approved a request by the College of Arts and Sciences to terminate the Bachelor of Music Degree
- Approved a proposal from the College of Education and Social Services and the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources for a new Place-Based Education Undergraduate Certificate
- Approved a proposal from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for a new PhD in Sustainable Policy Development, Economics and Governance
- Approved a proposal from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in conjunction with the Graduate College to significantly revise the existing PhD in Animal, Nutrition, and Food Sciences

Other Proposals Reviewed and Approved by the CAC

Eleven other proposals were reviewed and approved by the CAC.

- Approved a request from the Department of Plant and Soil Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) to change the names of the major and minor in Ecological Agriculture to a major and minor in Agroecology.

- Approved a request from the Department of Romance Languages in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) to change the name to the Department of Romance Languages and Cultures.
- Approved a request from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) in conjunction with the Graduate College to change the name of the PhD in Human Functioning and Rehabilitation Science (HFRS) to the PhD in Interprofessional Health Sciences (IHS).
- Approved a proposal from the Grossman School of Business (GSB) to eliminate the requirement for a minor in the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.
- Approved a request from the Directors of the Global and Regional Studies Program to add three concentrations to the Global Studies Major and establish parallel thematic categories for the Global Studies Minor.
- Approved a proposal from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in conjunction with the Graduate College to change the name of the existing PhD in Animal, Nutrition, and Food Sciences (ANFS) to the PhD in Animal Biosciences.
- Approved a request from the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) in conjunction with the Graduate College to change the name of the Master of Science (MS) in Animal Science to the MS in Animal Biosciences.
- Approved a proposal from the directors of the Environmental Sciences program to add a new concentration in Environmental Health.
- Approved a request from the Department of Geology in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) to change the name of the Department, Geology major (BA and BS), and Geology minor to Geology and Environmental Earth Science.
- Approved a request from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (CEMS) to change the name of the existing Master of Science (MS) in Mathematics to the MS in Mathematical Sciences.
- Approved a request from the Department of Romance Languages in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) to deactivate the French Master of Arts program.

Additional Actions

- Reviewed an update on the Minor in Behavioral Change Health Studies that began in fall 2016. It was the consensus of the committee that the program is taking steps towards assessing the minor, but has not had time to collect the data needed to assess outcomes. The committee requested an update in the fall that includes the components below. We anticipate requesting one more update in fall 2021, which will give the program time to collect data on students that have completed the minor and evaluate Learning Outcome 5.

- the annual summary noted in the assessment plan
 - a summary/evaluation of the fall 2019 and spring 2020 direct assessments (if not included in the annual summary)
 - a formative summary based on assessment of the BCHS minor-specific course evaluations from fall 2019 and spring 2020
 - a description of any changes to the assessment process and/or minor that result from the information gathered from fall 2019 and spring 2020
- Revised the policy documents listed below. Revisions were focused on addressing common questions from proposers, updating language to match current titles and policies, and updating the document names. The documents are all posted on the Faculty Senate Curricular Resources webpage. All revisions were approved by the CAC and shared with the Faculty Senate.
 - Process for Academic Department & Program Name Changes
 - New Program Proposal Cover Sheet
 - Proposal for New Academic Program
 - Substantial Revisions to Existing Academic Programs: Approval Process and Definitions
 - Proposal to Substantially Revise an Existing Academic Program
 - Proposal to Terminate an Academic Program
 - 2019-2020 Timeline for Policy & Proposal Review Process
 - Substantial Revisions to Existing Academic Programs: Definitions and Approval Process
- Created a new Deactivated Program status and associated policies for no contest deactivation, contested deactivation, reactivation with and without substantial changes, and requesting continuation of deactivated status. Proposal guidelines and the review process were modeled on the existing program termination policies. The new program deactivation process allows for the formal suspension of an academic program for a period of up to five years. The program will not be able to accept students once the deactivation is approved by the Faculty Senate. Detailed information on the deactivated program will be removed from the University Catalogue and department/program webpage(s). The program title will be listed in the graduate or undergraduate catalogue under the heading “Programs Not Currently Accepting Students.” Unless the program has been reactivated or terminated, the unit and the department housing the program will be notified by the Office of the Provost during the fourth year that action must be taken prior to the catalogue deadline in the coming academic year. At that point, the sponsoring unit has three choices: request continuation of deactivated status, begin a Program Termination process, or reactivate the program. By creating a deactivated program status, the CAC hopes to provide an option for programs that do not wish to initiate a termination process, but are not actively recruiting and accepting students. The policy documents were approved by the CAC and Faculty Senate and are posted on the Faculty Senate Curricular Resources webpage.
- 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.
- 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.

Academic Program Reviews

Reviews were completed for one program; three are currently in progress.

Reviews completed this year:

- Human Development & Family Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies

APR activity is underway for the following programs:

- Public Administration
- Education
- Higher Education & Student Affairs

Members of the Curricular Affairs Committee, 2019-2020

Laura Almstead	Laura Gewissler	Erik Monsen	Charlotte Teneback
Steve Budington	Andrew Goodwin	Aaron Nichols	Amy Tomas
Rosemary Dale	Ann Hazelrigg	Joan (Rosi) Rosebush	
Meaghan Emery	Jason Hibbeler	Amy Seidl	
Stephen Everse	Adrian Ivakhiv	Jennifer Sisk	
Garth Garrison	Colby Kervick	Jennifer Strickler	

Report submitted by Laura Almstead, Chair of the Curricular Affairs Committee, May 1, 2020.