

## MEMO

**To:** Thomas Borchert, President UVM Faculty Senate  
Brett Holt, Program Director Undergraduate Major in Physical Education  
**CC:** Provost Patricia Prelock, Dean Katharine Shepherd and Chair Kimberly Vannest  
**From:** Stephen Everse, Co-Chair CAC  
**Date:** April 7, 2021  
**Re:** Contested Deactivation of the Physical Education (Grades PreK-12), B.S. Ed.

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As per the Faculty Senate policy ([https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Faculty-Senate/ProposalToDeactivateAcademicProgram\\_Dec\\_2020.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Faculty-Senate/ProposalToDeactivateAcademicProgram_Dec_2020.pdf)) upon receiving the proposal from the Faculty Senate President I appointed a Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) sub-committee consisting of Rosemary Dale (CNHS) and Rosi Rosebush (CEMS) to evaluate the proposal. Their charge was to evaluate the curricular viability and quality of the program without regard to the financial feasibility of maintaining the program and to summarize the issues and their conclusions. Steps taken by the sub-committee to produce their recommendation included:

- Subcommittee received the proposal on Monday, January 24th.
- Subcommittee met with Interim CESS Dean Katharine Shepherd on February 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Subcommittee met with Departmental Chair Kimberly Vannest on February 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Subcommittee received one document from Dr. Holt on February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Subcommittee met with the Program Faculty Brett Holt on February 15<sup>th</sup> and February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Subcommittee held two open forums for faculty members in the Department of Education on February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Subcommittee met with Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Jennifer Dickinson, Faculty Senate President Thomas Borchert, and Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Co-Chair Stephen Everse on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Subcommittee submitted their report to the CAC Chair on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

On April 1<sup>st</sup> the sub-committee report (attached), the deactivation proposal and supporting materials, and a one-page summary of the deactivation process (attached) were shared with the CAC. At the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CAC we discussed the recommendation by the sub-committee to approve the proposal to deactivate the Physical Education (Grades PreK-12), B.S. Ed. Concerns were expressed about program viability, student employment post-graduation, and the Program Director's job. The subcommittee responded to each concern ultimately affirming that "pausing" admissions is good for all – the program, the students, and the faculty.

The CAC voted to accept the recommendation supporting the proposal to deactivate the Physical Education (Grades PreK-12), B.S. Ed. described in the UVM 2021-22 Undergraduate Catalogue and leading to teacher licensure in PK-12 PE settings. The vote was: 17 to accept, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

**To:** Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

**From:** Rosemary Dale and Rosi Rosebush

**Date:** March 26, 2022

**Re:** Approval of a proposal for to deactivate the Physical Education (Grades PreK-12), B.S. Ed. described in the UVM 2021-22 Undergraduate Catalogue and leading to teacher licensure in PK-12 PE settings

We have reviewed the contested proposal to deactivate the existing undergraduate major in Physical (PE) submitted by the Department of Education, met with the appropriate parties, and collected supplemental documentation. Our recommendation is to support the proposal as submitted. If approved by the CAC, the Faculty Senate, and the Board of Trustees, the deactivation would be implemented in May 2022.

The proposed deactivation request pertains to the Physical Education (Grades PreK-12), B.S. Ed. described in the UVM 2021-22 Undergraduate Catalogue and leading to teacher licensure in PK-12 PE settings. The PE program as a whole includes the PE licensure programs, as well as a Coaching Minor, Exercise Science Concentration, and a cross-college Sports Management Minor. The request for deactivation does not apply to the concentration or minors. The proposed deactivation will not result in reductions of any faculty or staff.

#### ***Steps Taken in the Evaluation of the Proposal***

- Subcommittee received the proposal on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Subcommittee met with the Program Faculty Brett Holt on February 15<sup>th</sup> and February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Subcommittee met with Departmental Chair Kimberly Vannest on February 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Subcommittee met with Interim CESS Dean Katharine Shepherd on February 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Subcommittee met with Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Jennifer Dickinson, Faculty Senate President Thomas Borchert, and Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Co-Chair Stephen Everse on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
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#### ***Rationale for Deactivation of the Program***

- Describe the proposers' rationale for implementing the deactivation at this time. Indicate who initiated the deactivation.

The status of enrollments in the PE program have been of concern for some time and was under review when the minimum thresholds for enrollment and completion were put forward by the Provost's Office in AY2020-2021. Degrees awarded in AY 18,19, and 20 were 4, 8, and 2. The Dean at that time, Scott Thomas, offered the program the opportunity to redesign. As no redesign was put forward, the Dean introduced the idea of DEACTIVATION to allow the EDPE program to examine this major, to revise the program appropriately, including working on dual endorsement with health education.

As per policy, the Department of Education Faculty voted on the deactivation in May 2021. The vote was 18 to 18. The current Dean, Dr. Katie Shepherd, offered the program an opportunity to identify alternate proposals during the fall of 2021. No proposal from the program was brought forward.

For this reason, Dean Shepherd and Chair Vannest identified that the proper course of action for the EDPE program was a deactivation. The CESS Curricular Affairs Committee reviewed the proposal on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and voted on December 17<sup>th</sup> in favor of the proposed action, with five members in support of the proposal and two abstaining.

#### **Argument for deactivation for curricular improvement**

The Chair, the Dean, the Director of Teacher Education, and the primary faculty member agree that the program's low enrollment is due in part to the fact that the degree does not include course work and field experiences needed for endorsement as a health educator. This preparation is common on a national scale and required for most jobs post-graduation. The program has also undergone changes in staffing and a reduction in faculty. The limited number of faculty and students compromises the pedagogy.

#### **Why is the deactivation contested?**

There is agreement on many points. The contest seems to revolve around the concern on the part of the primary faculty that the deactivation will lead to the discontinuation of the program.

#### ***Curricular Viability***

The current enrollment numbers do not support excellent pedagogy. A single core faculty member, despite excellent support from other departments, does not allow for diversity of style or teaching. Additionally, the configuration of the program, without the dual endorsement in health education, compromises the employability of the graduates.

Physical education programs are offered at Norwich University in the Department of Health and Human Performance. Castleton University also offers a degree in Physical Education.

#### ***Effect on students***

Students will finish with no program interruptions. Advising will continue as the core faculty member will be here. There is no program relying on this Physical Education degree. Courses offered that students in other majors take will continue to be offered.

#### ***Exit deactivation***

Dean Shepherd has indicated that her plan is to formulate a committee to identify issues and to develop a viable program. The current faculty member agrees to participate, either leading the charge or actively participating in the discussions.

Our recommendation is to support the proposal to deactivate the Physical Education (Grades PreK-12), B.S. Ed. described in the UVM 2021-22 Undergraduate Catalogue and leading to teacher licensure in PK-12 PE settings.