



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

**Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate
Minutes**

Thursday, September 7, 2023, 4:15 – 6:15 pm in Waterman 427A

Present: Professors Kervick (CESS), Everse (LCOM), Borchert (Faculty Senate President), de Jager (LCOM), DeSisto (CALs), Doherty (LIB), Emery (CAS), Frimpong (CNHS), Harrington (CAS), Hibbeler (CEMS), Jones (GSB), Lau (LCOM), Mayo (CESS), Murray (CALs), Rosebush (CEMS), Sargent (CNHS), Seidl (RSENR), Swogger (LIB), Tomas (GSB)

Absent: Professors Blom (CAS), Panikkar (RSENR), Vizcarra (CAS), Vacant (LCOM)

Guests: Abby McGowan, Alicia Ebert, Evan Eyler, Veronika Carter

Chair Kervick called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM

I. Introduction of Committee Members

II. Approval of May 2023 Minutes

Motion: Thomas Borchert moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded.

Vote: 18 approve, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. **The motion carried.**

III. Co-Chair's Remarks

- A. **Overview of CAC purpose and procedures** – Colby Kervick & Stephen Everse presented the charge and responsibilities of the CAC, guiding norms for proposal review and APR reports, the flow and timeline for program review, and where to find templates and other resources, as well the Teams files and materials for each meeting.
- B. **Anticipated CAC work scope for AY 23-24** – in addition to program review and APR, the co-Chairs anticipated a busy year for the CAC. If the co-major credential is approved, the CAC may see co-major proposals from across units. Proposals for several substantial revisions are expected from CAS, and the Graduate College anticipates proposals for certificates of graduate study and a new PhD in Humanities.

IV. Reports – none

V. Academic Program Reviews (APR)

- A. **Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES)** – Meaghan Emery and Cris Mayo served as the review subcommittee and recommend that the CAC accept the report as

documentation that the APR process has been followed. The CRES program was developed through student activism. The current Director, Dr. Yolanda Flores, is valued by the students as knowledgeable and accessible. The program would benefit from more resources, including compensation for the director, additional core or affiliated faculty, a physical space, and funding for social activities. With more institutional support, the program's vision will have a better chance of actualization and the number of minors continue to grow, providing more impetus to the long-term goal of developing a CRES major, which would bolster UVM's reputation as housing one of the strongest CRES programs in the nation.

Motion: Colby Kervick called a vote to accept the subcommittee's report of the APR of the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Program.

Vote: 19 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

- B. **Food Systems (GRAD)** – Cris Mayo and Colby Kervick served as the review subcommittee and recommend that the CAC accept the report as documentation that the APR process was followed as intended and that the report highlights key findings from the review process. The Food Systems Graduate program completed a thorough self-study including a 10-year report on the program. The program actively engaged with the external review process and had an opportunity to review and offer feedback on the CAC subcommittee APR report. Food Systems is a crucial part of UVM's land grant mission and uses a wide array of disciplinary and transdisciplinary resources on campus. Without stronger support and incentivization from the administration, though, it has not always been able to have the issue of food systems remain the focus of classes and has not always been able to have students work with faculty who themselves are able to work beyond siloes. Students need a space to congregate – and a space that might welcome others on campus into consideration of the key importance of food systems – and a stable core faculty and cross campus partners able to concentrate and be compensated for their work on the issue of food systems. In the self-study the program notes additional strategic goals around continuing work around DEI and alignment with all three areas of UVM's amplifying impact along with increasing funding and faculty engaging in teaching/advising in the program. They also speak to the need to continue to expand collaborative partnerships and visibility.

Motion: Colby Kervick called a vote to accept the subcommittee's report of the APR of the Food Systems Graduate Program.

Vote: 19 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

VI. Other Business

- A. **Minor Edit to Procedures for New Course Prefixes** – Stephen Everse presented a minor change to the guidelines for proposing new course prefixes. The guidelines were updated to reflect the newly approved public circulation timeline of 15 days.

Motion: Meaghan Emery moved to approve the edit to the guidelines. The motion was seconded and **carried unanimously**.

Co-Major Credential – Colby Kervick presented an overview of the proposal to establish a co-major credential at UVM. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes and include the definition of co-major; difference between the credentials of co-major, double-major, and dual degree; core ideas & goals; and the mechanics of the co-major credential. If approved as an academic credential, the co-major would enable undergraduate students at UVM to pursue a co-major in a discipline of interest outside their academic unit. This new academic credential will broaden and enrich learning opportunities for undergraduate students without impeding the students' ability to complete their degree requirements in a timely manner, engage students in academic offerings available outside their home unit and expand interdisciplinary learning options at UVM. If the credential is approved by the CAC, it will go before the Faculty Senate for a vote, and then to the Board of Trustees. If approved, curricular proposals for co-majors could begin being reviewed during the spring 2024 semester with the new credential being available for students to pursue starting with the Fall 24-25 academic catalog year. Proposals for co-majors will undergo the same technical review and routing process as a substantial revision – the CAC will vote on the proposal and report out to the Faculty Senate.

Discussion included clarification of the difference between BA/BS degree requirements and that a BS/BS co-major would probably be too difficult; the importance of advising and the plan for institutional guidance for the language and messaging; the Banner and degree audit systems will track requirements for the co-major.

Motion: Thomas Borchert moved to approve the proposal for a co-major credential. The motion was seconded and **carried unanimously**.

- B. **Co-major Curricular Proposal Template and Mou Template** – Colby Kervick opened discussion on the curricular proposal templates for units wishing to create a co-major, including a required Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) template. Discussion included praise for the complexity of the MOU and acknowledgement of the importance of the MOU to the co-major proposals.

Motion: Rosi Rosebush moved to approve the co-major curricular proposal templates. The motion was seconded and **carried unanimously**.

C. **Volunteers have been secured for the following:**

- i. Counseling APR: Susan Swogger and Amy Tomas (Stephen Everse will consult)
- ii. Medical Education APR: Meaghan Emery and Janet Murray (Colby Kervick will consult)
- iii. Speech Language Pathology APR: Jason Hibbeler and Chi Chi Lau (Colby Kervick will consult)

- iv. 8 Proposals for Micrograduate Certificates: Rosi Rosebush and Donna Ramirez Harrington (Stephen Everse will consult)
- v. Nutrition and Food Sciences – David Jones and Deborah Blom

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM.