



The University of Vermont  
FACULTY SENATE

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

Thursday, March 3, 2022, 4:15 – 6:15 pm

Present: Professors Everse, Almstead, Barnaby, Borchert, B. Brown, T. Brown, Dale, Emery, Hazelrigg, Hibbeler, Jones, Poleman, Saulean, Sargent, Sisk, Swogger, Teneback, Tomas, Saulean  
Absent: Professors Blom, Hunt, Rosebush, Seidl, Adamson (SGA), Chapina (GSA)  
Guests: Jennifer Dickinson, Alison Maynard, Evan Eyler, ASL Interpreters Lynette & Jen

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Chair Everse called the meeting to order at 4:16 on Zoom

- I. **Approval of the Minutes.** Rosemary Dale moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded. **Vote: 13 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. The motion carried.**

II. **Chair's Remarks** – Stephen Everse made the following comments:

- A. Highlights of the February 4, 2022 meeting of the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee (EPIR) of the Board of Trustees included presentation of the School of the Arts proposal (approved to begin this summer), the creation of the new Geography and Geosciences Department and termination of the Department of Geology. The BOT also approved the Micro-certificate of Graduate Study in Sustainable Family Enterprise, the BA in Neuroscience, and the termination of the Latin and Greek majors and minors. The CAC was thanked for making the job of the EPIR easier.
- B. New business – several people needed for APR & subcommittee.

III. **APR Reports**

- A. **Exercise Science Program** – Selene Colburne and Charlotte Teneback served as the Academic Program Review Subcommittee for the Exercise Science Program in the Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science (RMS) in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS). Both the external accreditation team and APR subcommittee feel the Department has strong leadership, outstanding faculty, and enthusiastic students that add to the health sciences education of the University. The program's mission, goals, and program outcomes are in line with both College and University missions. Key points highlighted by the external reviewer include the need for resources for the program's staffing and facilities that are consistent with UVM's pursuit of R1 status. The reviewer also makes a strong case for a (re)consideration of the pros and cons of pursuing accreditation and recommends that the final decision be informed by a more thorough assessment of student needs. The external review

was satisfactory. Program Director Susan Kasser communicated to the CAC internal subcommittee that she had shared the external review with Exercise Science faculty and that, “They, for the most part, believe that he did an excellent job capturing our program’s current status and articulating our strengths and future needs.” She explained that faculty agreed with all the report’s formal recommendations, “especially the need for ongoing discussions pertaining to accreditation, resources, and tenure-track hires.” It is our understanding that the program did not feel the need to submit a formal response to the external review. This subcommittee feels the process was followed appropriately.

**Motion:** Rosemary Dale moved to accept the APR Report on the Exercise Science Program in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The motion was seconded.

**Vote: 13 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. The motion carried.**

#### IV. Reports

- A. **New Minor in Medical Diagnostics (CNHS)** – Jennifer Sisk and Charlotte Teneback served as the review subcommittee and recommend approval of the proposal for a new Minor in Medical Diagnostics submitted by the Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences (BhSC) in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS). The subcommittee found the proposal to be well conceived, attentive to current trends in laboratory medicine and health science, and doable with UVM’s current resources. If approved, it will offer a beneficial supplement to the undergraduate preparation of students in a range of majors for careers in health science that involve clinical decision-making, as well as non-clinical careers in fields such as public health, epidemiology, and health education. The subcommittee report is attached to these minutes.
- Motion:** Elizabeth Sargent moved to approve the new minor in Medical Diagnostics in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The motion was seconded.
- Vote: 16 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. The motion carried.**

#### V. Other Business:

- A. **No Contest Deactivation of Early Childhood Special Education Major (CESS)** – Stephen Everse presented a request from the Department of Education in the College of Education and Social Services for a no-contest deactivation of the Early Childhood Special Education undergraduate major for the purpose of halting admissions during reconstruction of the curriculum and degree. Discussion included the benefit of deactivation during times of program revision by providing faculty job security and preventing “false advertising” to students regarding program availability.
- Motion:** Thomas Borchert moved to approve the no-contest deactivation of the Early Childhood Special Education Major in the College of Education and Social Services. The motion was seconded.
- Vote: 15 approve, 1 oppose, 0 abstain. The motion carried.**
- B. **Environmental Studies Minor Move from RSENR to CAS** – Stephen Everse presented a request from the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources to move the Environmental Studies minor to the College of Arts and Sciences. This agreement between RSENR and CAS follows the completion of an MOU process regarding the consolidation of ENV5 offering in CAS, approved by the Deans of CALS, CAS, and RSENR in December 2021. The Registrar’s office has

already moved all ENVS courses to CAS and will also move the minor code for the Environmental minor to the Department of Geography and Geosciences, the new administrative home for the ENVS program. The Registrar's office has agreed to complete the move of the minor code within their systems to coincide with the start of the 2022-23 catalogue year.

**Motion:** Thomas Borchert moved to approve the move of the Environmental Studies minor from the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources to the College of Arts and Sciences. The motion was seconded.

**Vote: 17 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. The motion carried.**

**VI. New Business:**

A. Stephen Everse asked for volunteers to serve on the APR subcommittee for Mathematics and Statistics (Apr 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>). Meaghan Emery and Ann Hazelrigg volunteered.

B. Stephen Everse asked for volunteers to serve on a subcommittee to review a proposal for a new minor in Integrated Health and Wellness Coaching (Terminate Certificate). Elizabeth Sargent and Andrew Barnaby volunteered.

C. Tom Borchert reported that a conflict has emerged between the College of Arts and Sciences and the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources over a course, and a mediation process may be needed. The CAC has a procedure for Resolving Curricular Disputes Between Units posted on the website, which includes the creation of an ad hoc committee of 6 members of the CAC to arbitrate the dispute. If the conflict is not resolved by the units, this may come forward to the CAC in the next couple weeks.

D. Name change request from Rubenstein is on hold because of issues that need to be addressed.

Ann Hazelrigg moved to adjourn at 5:25 PM

**MEMO**

**To:** Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate  
**From:** Jennifer Sisk and Charlotte Teneback  
**Date:** 2/24/22  
**Re:** Approval of a proposal for a new Minor in Medical Diagnostics

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We have reviewed a proposal for a new Minor in Medical Diagnostics submitted by the Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences (BHSC) in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS), and we recommend its approval. This new program, which would involve currently employed BHSC faculty, has a proposed start date of Fall 2022.

***Program Description and Rationale***

This proposal was initiated by Medical Laboratory Science faculty in BHSC, who note that an estimated 70% of all medical decisions are based on laboratory tests, and current trends in medical diagnostics necessitate familiarity with laboratory medicine as key component of foundational education in a range of disciplines for which UVM already offers majors. The proposed new minor in Medical Diagnostics would offer students 18 credits of core and elective courses in which to develop basic knowledge in clinical laboratory techniques, diagnostic assays, and human disease. This minor would prepare students to interpret and evaluate laboratory data and to understand how it is used in clinical decision-making. It would be of benefit to students preparing for graduate health programs and also to students heading toward non-clinical careers in public health, epidemiology, and health education (fields that call for knowledge of how diagnostic medicine informs clinical decision making, patient care, and public health assessments). Additionally, the minor would offer a new opportunity for UVM undergraduates to become involved with cutting-edge biomedical research. The proposed minor aligns with the specific missions of BHSC and CNHS to foster knowledge and train students to become leaders in health sciences, as well as with UVM's comprehensive commitment to "liberal education, environment, \*health\*, and public service."

***Justification and Evidence for Demand***

Minors offered by peer programs nationally suggest high demand and boast large enrollments.

***Relationship to Existing Programs***

The new minor has the potential to enhance the education of students in a range of majors (biology, chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology, molecular genetics, animal science, biomedical engineering, public health sciences, neuroscience, nutrition) and students in the pre-health and pre-vet pathways. There is no overlap or redundancy with currently available minors at UVM. No substantial concerns were raised in the comment period, and the proposal has received letters of support from LCOM, CALS, and Dana medical library.

## **Curriculum**

The curriculum consists of 18 credit hours of core and elective courses currently offered by BHSC. The breakdown is as follows:

### Required Courses (9 credits)

MLS 101	Medical Diagnostic Techniques* (fall)	3 credits
MLS 210	Applied Medical Diagnostics*	3 credits
BHSC 281	Applied Molecular Biology (fall)	3 credits

\*new courses, which either have been or are being piloted, with course action forms and syllabi already submitted

### Electives (9 additional credits)

HLTH 135	Advanced Medical Equipment Systems	3 credits
MLS 221	Clinical Chemistry I (fall)	3 credits
MLS 222	Clinical Chemistry II (spring)	3 credits
BHSC 242	Immunology (spring)	3 credits
MLS 255	Clinical Microbiology II (fall)	3 credits
MLS 231	Hematology (fall)	3 credits
XXX	Other approved elective(s)	3 credits

There are two prerequisites (Human Cell Biology and Chemistry) for the courses required for the minor, and some additional foundational science courses are prerequisites for certain electives.

Curricular restrictions:

The minor in Medical Diagnostics is unacceptable with the major in Medical Laboratory Science, due to extensive course overlap. Only up to two courses in the minor can overlap with a student's major.

### **Admission Requirements and Process**

There will be an application process for the minor, which will be limited to a cohort of 30 students. Students must be accepted into the minor to be eligible to enroll in the courses.

### **Anticipated Enrollment and Impact on Current Programs**

The minor will increase course enrollments in core courses within medical laboratory science. The minor will not require laboratory sections for core and elective courses (though students in the minor may enroll in them if space allows, with priority being given to medical laboratory science majors). These core courses will be modified so that they can be taken with or without a lab section (for 3 or 4 credits, respectively). Two new permanent courses will be needed for the minor (Medical Diagnostic Techniques and Applied Medical Diagnostics), both of which have been or are being piloted, and relevant course action forms and syllabi have been formally submitted for approval.

### **Advising**

A current faculty member will be given 5-10% workload effort (depending on enrollment) to administer the program, which will include advising.

## ***Assessment Plan***

There Minor has five specific outcomes. Upon completion, students should be able

1. to demonstrate basic knowledge in clinical laboratory techniques;
2. to determine the appropriate utilization of laboratory tests for screening, monitoring, therapy, and prognosis of human diseases;
3. to analyze and interpret laboratory data as it correlates with clinical symptoms;
4. to demonstrate professional conduct in an interprofessional community environment;
5. and to articulate laboratory information in a variety of ways (verbal, written, media, etc.).

The assessment plan for the Minor will take four years to roll out fully. Full assessment will involve:

- in even-numbered years (beginning in 2024) direct assessment via a sampling of case studies from 200-level courses (to evaluate student performance in test utilization, interpretation of laboratory data, and correlation with disease)
- in odd-numbered years (beginning in 2025) direct assessment of the MLS 210 presentation showcase (to evaluate student ability to articulate information about their civic/service-learning experience to a professional audience).
- Annually (beginning in 2026) indirect assessment via an exit survey completed by students finishing the Minor

Every year the Medical Laboratory Science Program director will review assessment results from the previous AY and present them to departmental faculty for discussion of potential revisions to the Minor.

## ***Staffing Plan, Resource Requirements, and Budget***

No new faculty or staff appointments are needed. Enrollments in Medical Laboratory Science core courses will increase, but within limits that the current courses can accommodate. This increase will have only a slight impact on faculty workload. No anticipated new library resources are associated with the minor. Costs in addition to current budget is only one 10% maximum workload effort assigned to the faculty administrator of the program. Supplies needed due to increased enrollment in laboratory-based courses will be covered by student fees.

## ***Evidence of Support***

Initiated by the Biomedical Laboratory faculty in BHSC, the proposed minor has been approved by all BHSC faculty, as attested by the Department chair. The CNHS Curriculum Committee has likewise unanimously approved the proposal, and the CNHS Dean has submitted a letter of support and an attestation of the program's expected fiscal solvency. Additional letters of support were submitted by the Senior Assoc. Dean for Medical Education at LCOM, the CALS dean, and the Dean of Libraries.

## ***Summary***

We find the proposed minor in Medical Diagnostics to be well conceived, attentive to current trends in laboratory medicine and health science, and doable with UVM's current resources. If approved, it will offer a beneficial supplement to the undergraduate preparation of students in a range of majors for careers in health science that involve clinical decision-making, as well as non-clinical careers in fields such as public health, epidemiology, and health education. We recommend the approval of this proposal.