



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

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

Thursday, January 4, 2024, 4:15 – 6:15 pm on Teams

Present: Professors Everse (LCOM), Kervick (CESS), Blom (CAS), de Jager (LCOM), Doherty (LIB), Emery (CAS), Eyler (Faculty Senate Vice President), Frimpong (CNHS), Harrington (CAS), Hibbeler (CEMS), Jones (GSB), Lau (LCOM), Mayo (CESS), Murray (CALs), Rosebush (CEMS), Seidl (RSENr), Swogger (LIB)

Absent: Professors DeSisto (CALs), Panikkar (RSENr), Tomas (GSB), Vizcarra (CAS), Vacant (CNHS), Vacant (LCOM), and Bednarik (SGA)

Guests: Rosemary Dale (CNHS), J. Dickinson (VP Faculty Affairs & Student Success), Alicia Ebert (Grad College), Thomas Griffin (LCOM), Maggie Lambert (PACE)

Chair Everse called the meeting to order at 4:17 PM

I. **Minutes** of the December 2023 CAC meeting were approved with one abstention.

II. Co-Chair's Remarks – Stephen Everse

- A. Reminder that February's meeting will be in person Waterman 427A.
- B. The work of the subcommittees that prepared reports for this meeting is greatly appreciated.

III. Reports

A. New Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing

Stephen Everse and Colby Kervick served as the review subcommittee for the proposal for a new Direct Entry to the Master of Science in Nursing (MEPN) program submitted by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) and the Graduate College and recommend approval. The Direct Entry to the Master of Science in Nursing (MEPN) program allows students with diverse academic backgrounds and a BA or BS an entry point into the nursing profession. This innovative program will prepare agile nursing professionals by getting them into the workforce after the first year and then allowing them to follow their own interests with specialization during the master's portion of the program. This program received strong support from the Department of Nursing (28 in favor, 2 abstentions) and the CNHS Curriculum Planning Committee (unanimous support). No public comments received. Upon Board of Trustee approval, the program would recruit students for the Fall of 2024. approval.

Motion: Stephen Everse called a vote to approve the new Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Vote: 14 approve, 0 oppose, 1 abstain. **The motion carried.**

B. Uncontested Deactivation of the Clinical Nurse Leaders Program

Prudence Doherty and Colby Kervick served as the review subcommittee for the proposal from the Department of Nursing in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences for a no-contest deactivation of the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) graduate program due to a history of low to no enrollment and recommend CAC approval. The Department has proposed a new program, Direct Entry to Master of Science in Nursing, which they believe will have broader appeal and align with the changing needs of students, practice partners, the state of Vermont, and the health care industry. There is strong support for the deactivation by the Department of Nursing, the CNHS Dean and the Dean of the Graduate College. If approved by the CAC and the Faculty Senate, the deactivation would go into effect during the 24-25 catalog year.

Motion: Stephen Everse called a vote to approve the request to deactivate the Clinical Nurse Leaders Program in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Vote: 16 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

C. Change minimum credit for CGS and mCGS

Colby Kervick and Stephen Everse served as the review subcommittee for the proposal to revise the credential requirements for the Certificate of Graduate Study (CGS) and Micro Certificate of Graduate Study (mCGS) credentials submitted by the Graduate College and recommend approval. In advancing this proposal, Dean of the Graduate College Holger Hoock stated, "The proposed revisions will better enable UVM to maintain a regularly refreshed certificate ecosystem to advance our mission to offer robustly curated, accessible graduate-level education and training to a wider range of learners in the state of Vermont and beyond." If the proposal to adjust the credits for the credentials is approved by the Board of Trustees, it would go in effect for the 24-25 catalog year.

Motion/Vote: Stephen Everse stated that a vote to approve the proposal to change the credential requirements for the Certificate of Graduate Study (CGS) and Micro-Certificate of Graduate Study (mCGS) submitted by the Graduate College will be conducted electronically on January 9th. Any additional public comments on this proposal will be shared with the CAC prior to the vote.

D. New Minor in Childhood Studies

Chi Chi Lau and Cynthia Frimpong served as the review subcommittee and recommend approval of the proposal for a new minor in Childhood Studies (CHS) submitted by faculty members in the Early Childhood Program in the Department of Education (DOE) in the College of Education and Social Services. The minor meets the growing academic interest among current and prospective UVM students at the nexus of children's welfare, education, and critical issues of social justice. The CHS minor is available to all UVM students (excluding only Early Childhood Education majors) and complements degrees across Colleges. Intended start date is Fall 2024 if approved by the faculty senate and Board of Trustees.

Motion/Vote: Stephen Everse stated that a vote to approve the proposal for the new minor in Childhood Studies (CHS) in the Department of Education, College of Education

and Social Services will be conducted electronically on January 9th. Any additional public comments on this proposal will be shared with the CAC prior to the vote.

E. New Minor in Military Leadership

Stephen Everse and Colby Kervick served as the review subcommittee for the proposal to for a new Minor in Military Leadership submitted by College of Education and Social Services (CESS) and recommend its approval. The proposed minor is a collaboration between the Department of Military Studies, which is not located in a degree-granting unit, and the CESS Department of Education. The Military Studies department and course offering will remain in their current structural location and LCT Travis McCracken will be the point of contact for the minor. The partnership with CESS allows participating Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) cadets to receive an appropriate credential for their participation in their Military Leadership curriculum associated with their training in military studies. The proposal was approved by the CESS curriculum Committee, the CESS faculty and Dean Shepherd. One public comment was received regarding the title of the minor (originally Leadership & Military Studies). The commenter was concerned that the minor might be misleading to students because it centered leadership more broadly, when the minor is focused on leadership within the context of the ROTC curriculum. The proposers readily agreed to a name change for the minor. The commenter felt satisfied with that response and supports the name adjustment (now Military Leadership). No other public comments were received. The proposers are hoping for a starting date of August 2024. Discussion topics included confirmation that the proposed minor was not rejected by other colleges, the potential for future collaboration with CESS and Military Studies, and an explanation that the Military Studies APR and self-study is separate from CESS.

Motion/Vote: Stephen Everse stated that a vote to approve the proposal for the new Minor in Military Leadership in the College of Education and Social Services will be conducted electronically on January 9th. Any additional public comments on this proposal will be shared with the CAC prior to the vote.

F. Revision to the Biology and Zoology minors

Colby Kervick and Stephen Everse served as the review subcommittee and recommend approval of the proposals to revise the existing Biology Minor and the existing Zoology Minor submitted by the Department of Biology and the College of Arts and Science. If approved by the CAC, the changes will be implemented with the 24-25 catalog year. The changes proposed for the revised Biology Minor and Zoology Minor are to: a.) create a concrete step-wise progression in the discipline by requiring (instead of simply allowing as an elective) an intermediate-level course: one foundational BCOR course at the 2000-level; and b.) strengthen fundamental understanding in biological concepts by requiring prefix-specific elective courses in Biology. Together, the revised minor is stronger for the students while retaining exploratory flexibility. The proposers communicated these changes to all units that would be impacted as documented in letters of support.

Motion/Vote: Stephen Everse stated that a vote to approve the proposals to revise the Biology Minor and to revise the Zoology Minor submitted by the Department of Biology

and the College of Arts and Sciences will be conducted electronically on January 9th. Any additional public comments on these proposals will be shared with the CAC prior to the vote.

G. Substantial Revision to Clinical and Translational Sciences MS

Jason Hibbeler and Janet Muray served as the review subcommittee for the proposal to revise the existing Master's degree in Clinical and Translational Science submitted by the Larner College of Medicine and recommend approval. The Larner College of Medicine is looking to expand the Clinical and Translational Science (CTS) Master's to include a non-concentration, course-based path within the Master's (MS) degree. Currently, there are two concentration specific options for a MS in Clinical and Translational Science (CTS) – a thesis option (Concentration in Investigation) and a non-thesis option (Concentration in Research Management). Both require a supervised, independent experience (either the thesis or a research internship). This proposed non-concentration path alleviates this enrollment constraint. The proposal also alters the admissions criteria (to fall in alignment with the current Graduate College application requirements). If approved, the changes will be implemented starting Fall 2024.

Motion: Stephen Everse called a vote to approve the proposal to revise the existing Master's degree in Clinical and Translational Science submitted by the Larner College of Medicine.

Vote: 16 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

H. New BA, BS and Minor in Geosciences

Donna Theresa Harrington and Joan Marie Rosebush served as the review subcommittee for the proposal for a new B.A. Major in Geosciences, a new B.S. Major in Geosciences, and a new Minor in Geosciences submitted by the Department of Geography and Geosciences in the College of Arts and Sciences and recommend approval. The proposed B.A., B.S., and Minor will offer students the opportunity to select courses across a variety of geosciences offerings to study the Earth and other planetary bodies in an interdisciplinary setting and within a system of understanding. The new Geosciences B.A., and B.S. will fill a gap in STEM education as a result of the termination of the Geology Department and Geology major. These majors will combine classroom-based education with hands-on field and lab experiences that integrate the application of course content to real research experiences in the context of the liberal arts and other STEM fields. The proposed minor will combine classroom-based education with practice elements such as hands-on field, lab and data analyses experiences to offer studies of the coherent body of knowledge in geosciences.

Motion: Stephen Everse called a vote to approve proposal for a new B.A. Major in Geosciences in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Vote: 16 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

Motion: Stephen Everse called a vote to approve proposal for a new B.S. Major in Geosciences in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Vote: 16 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

Motion: Stephen Everse called a vote to approve proposal for a new Minor in Geosciences in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Vote: 16 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

I. New Minor in Sustainable Energy Engineering

David Jones and Amy Seidl served as the review subcommittee for the proposal for a new Minor in Sustainable Energy Engineering in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences and recommend approval. The proposal describes a new minor that complements existing majors in CEMS, not limited to but especially suited to engineering majors. The proposal addresses societal need to transition to sustainable energy, and associated job market opportunity and prospective student demand. The proposed minor is well-fitted to the vision of UVM and does not rely on new resources. Participating faculty are from all three engineering departments (Civil and Environmental; Electrical and Biomedical; Mechanical), and Physics. If approved by the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees the new minor would go into effect Fall 2024.

Motion: Stephen Everse called a vote to approve the new Minor in Sustainable Energy Engineering in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.

Vote: 16 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

IV. Academic Program Reviews (APR) – None

V. Other Business - None

VI. New Business

- A. Volunteers are needed to serve as subcommittee members for the bundle of languages co-major proposals. The proposals will be voted at the February meeting. Cris Mayo and Cynthia Frimpong volunteered. Additional volunteers are needed to review these seven (7) proposals.
- B. Meaghan Emery volunteered to review the proposal for a new mCGS in Scientific Computing.

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM