



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

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

Thursday, March 2, 2023, 4:15 – 6:15 pm on Teams

Present: Professors Kervick, Everse, Barnaby, Brooks, Dale, Doherty, Emery, Harrington, Hazelrigg, Hibbeler, Jones, Lau, Mayo, Noordewier, Rosebush, Sargent, Seidl, Swogger,
Absent: Professors Borchert, and SGA Rep Lista
Guests: Jennifer Dickinson, Evan Eyler, Cynthia Forehand

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

I. Approval of the February 2, 2023 Minutes.

Motion: Joan Rosebush moved to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded.

Vote: 12 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

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

- Update on Co-Major conversation – Tom Borchert and J. Dickinson have invited key stakeholders to participate in a working group. Colby Kervick agreed to serve as chair. Work will begin this Spring and hope to have proposals for curricular review in Fall 2023.
- Elections reminder – Laurie Eddy stated that members should notify their Dean's office of their intent to run for re-election. Elections in colleges should be completed by March 30th to allow faculty to include the service on workload agreements. Stephen Everse stated that there will also be a call for nominations for CAC chair and election in April.
- Adjusted process for 2-year follow-up for APRs – the in-person meeting is transitioning to a paper process.
- Board of Trustees meeting – Colby Kervick reported that there was public acknowledgment and appreciation expressed by the Provost, and Chair of the EPIR committee for the effort and service of faculty on the CAC.

III. APR Reports

- A. **Engineering Graduate Programs** – Elizabeth Sargent, Chi Chi Lau, and Andrew Barnaby, served as the review subcommittee and recommend that the CAC accept the report as documentation that the APR was followed appropriately. The Graduate Programs in Engineering have provided evidence of high-quality research and teaching and a trend toward growth. The successful research funding across departments is described by external reviewers as “impressive,” particularly given the relatively high teaching load and short administrative staffing. The engineering departments and programs could be positioned to contribute to institutional

“upscaling” in its mission toward becoming an R1 institution. While facilities were deemed largely adequate for students, more resources are needed for faculty mentoring and training. A more comprehensive marketing campaign to recruit graduate students could benefit all programs and infuse departments with resources that could help reach the goal of the R1 designation. The self-study and external reviewers’ report were thorough and well done. Stephen Everse called a vote to accept the subcommittee’s report on the APR of the Engineering Graduate Programs.

Vote: 16 Approve, 0 Oppose, 0 Abstain. **The motion carried.**

- B. **Pharmacology** – Stephen Everse and Colby Kervick served as the review subcommittee and attest that, to date, the APR process has been followed. The current size of the program appears appropriate for its capacity and the quality of incoming applicants are considered high by all stakeholders. It is clear, that the incoming student population has very diverse career goals and the flexibility that this program provides is a great strength in accommodating and satisfying these needs. The program compares well with other similar peer programs. In summary, the program is solid and the suggestions above could provide an excellent opportunity for the program to grow and define itself further as a premier graduate program providing, they are approached with careful consideration, deliberation, and innovation. The Program has read and approved this APR Subcommittee report.

Stephen Everse called a vote to accept the subcommittee’s report on the APR of the Pharmacology

Vote: 15 Approve, 0 Oppose, 0 Abstain. **The motion carried.**

- C. **Gender studies and Sexuality** – Ann Hazelrigg, Andrew Barnaby and Stephen Everse served as the review subcommittee and attests that, to date, the APR process has been followed. The self-study provided a detailed 360-degree perspective on the program, its history, and its possible future. The self-study also demonstrates that the GSWS faculty are well aware of the challenges facing the program and has insight into how best meet the challenges. The primary challenge facing the program relates to staffing, from staffing of courses to office support. The primary solution to these challenges, in short, is funding. It is clear that the most creative and collaborative efforts to address the program’s challenges will be partial and unsustainable without attendant changes to meet the real material needs of the GSWS program.

Stephen Everse called a vote to accept the subcommittee’s report on the APR of the Gender Studies and Sexuality.

Vote: 17 Approve, 0 Oppose, 0 Abstain. **The motion carried.**

- D. **Mathematics and Statistics** – this item was moved to the April agenda.

IV. Reports

New Undergraduate Certificate in Semiconductor Engineering and Physics (CEMS) – Amy Seidl and Joan Rosebush served as the review subcommittee for the proposal for a new Undergraduate Certificate in Semiconductor Engineering and Physics in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences and recommend approval. If approved, the intended start date is Fall 2023, with the curriculum and laboratory and experiential infrastructure fully in

place by Fall 2024. The first certificates will be awarded in Spring 2025. The proposed Certificate will certify that UVM undergraduate students have received specific instruction and experiences in semiconductor engineering and/or physics and will better prepare our graduates to work in the semiconductor industry and/or pursue further studies in this field. This 17-credit hour certificate complements coursework in the areas of semiconductor device physics, design, processes and/or metrology with a significant experiential learning experience and will be accessible to students from electrical engineering, physics, and other technical majors. The funds to develop the UCSEP coursework and laboratory infrastructure come from the recent Department of Education award: “A New Semiconductor Engineering Curriculum at the University of Vermont.”

An electronic ballot will be distributed to the CAC members for vote after the 30-day public comment period ends on March 19, 2023.

V. **Other Business:**

- A. **Course Prefix Change from RSENR: NR to SEP** – Stephen Everse reported that the CAC received a request from the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources (RSENR) for a new subject code (prefix) for current NR (Natural Resources) courses that align with the newly named Sustainability, Ecology and Policy (SEP) program. The requested SEP subject code would help to eliminate potential confusion for students and more clearly distinguish Sustainability, Ecology and Policy program courses from RSENR NR Core courses. The Registrar’s Office has indicated that the SEP subject code is available, and the change has been approved by the RSENR Curriculum Committee, RSENR faculty and RSENR Dean. Stephen Everse called vote to approve the new SEP subject code for Sustainability, Ecology and Policy the program in RSENR.
- Vote:** 16 approved, 0 Oppose, 0 Abstain. **The motion carried.**

VI. **New Business**

A. **New Subcommittee assignments**

- Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES) APR March 27/28: Cris Mayo and Meaghan Emery
- Food Systems APR Graduate April 20/21: Cris Mayo & Ann Hazelrigg
- Early Childhood Major Substantial revision and No-Contest Termination of Special Education minor with Endorsement (April CAC meeting): Liz Hunt and Prudence Doherty
- Undergraduate/Graduate Certificate in Semiconductor Engineering (April CAC meeting): Amy Seidl and Rosi Rosebush
- New Minors in Global Public Health and Public Health, Equity and Advocacy: Susan Swogger and Jason Hibbeler
- Undergraduate Certificate in Gerontology: Ann Hazelrigg
- Substantial revision to Mathematical Sciences major – Donna Harrington & Rosemary Dale

- B. Cynthia Forehand reported that the Graduate Executive Council approved a new concentration within the Master's of Public Health. Although the curricular change is less than 40%, the addition of a new concentration requires review and approval by the CAC. The proposal for this new concentration will be circulated for public comment once it is received by the Faculty Senate from the Provost's Office. Discussion included the possibility of the CAC conducting an electronic vote in order to expedite the approval process to meet catalogue deadlines.

- C. Stephen Everse reminded members that the April CAC meeting will be on Teams

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM.