



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

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

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

- Present: Professors Kervick* (CESS), Everse (LCOM), Borchert (Faculty Senate President), DeSisto (CALs), Doherty (LIB), Emery (CAS), Frimpong (CNHS), Hibbeler (CEMS), Jones (GSB), Lau (LCOM), Murray (CALs), Rosebush (CEMS), Sargent (CNHS), Tomas (GSB),
- Absent: Professors Blom (CAS), de Jager (LCOM), Harrington (CAS), Mayo** (CESS), Panikkar (RSENR), Seidl (RSENR), Swogger (LIB), Vizcarra (CAS), Vacant (LCOM), and Bednarik (SGA)
- Guests: Thomas Griffin (LCOM), Veronika Carter (Registrar), J. Dickinson (VP Faculty Affairs & Student Success), Terence Bradshaw (Plant & Soil Science)

*Attended by phone, **Submitted votes by email in advance

Chair Everse called the meeting to order at 4:19 PM

I. Approval of November 2023 Minutes

Motion: Rosi Rosebush moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

II. Co-Chair's Remarks

- A. Subcommittees for Curricular Review items that will be voted in January are asked to submit the reports by January 3rd for presentation at the January 4th CAC meeting. Janet Murray and Jason Hibbeler volunteered to be the subcommittee for the Substantial Revision to Clinical and Translational Science MS. Cynthia Frimpong and Chi Chi Lau volunteered to be the subcommittee for the New Minor in Childhood Studies.
- B. Items in the pipeline for the February CAC meeting include the first batch of Co-Major proposals from Languages, and some APR reports.
- C. Reminder that January's meeting will be on Teams
- D. Document for institutional guidance on Co-Major proposals is now posted on the Faculty Senate website.

III. Reports

A. Substantial Revision to Math Major in CEMS

Chi Chi Lau and Jason Hibbeler served as the review subcommittee for the proposal to

revise the existing BA in Mathematics – Mathematics Concentration submitted by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the College of Arts and Sciences and recommend approval. If approved, the changes will be implemented starting in Fall 2024. The proposed changes to the Mathematics BA coursework will create a sharper distinction between the Mathematics and Statistics concentrations while lending greater depth to the Mathematics concentration. There will be no change to Faculty or academic program endeavors within or outside the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and no additional cost. Discussion included clarification of difference between the BA and BS in Math.

Motion: Stephen Everse called a vote to approve the revision to the BA in Mathematics in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Vote: 15 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

B. Name Change and New Course Prefix request for Department of Plant and Soil Science (CALs)

Colby Kervick and Stephen Everse served as the review subcommittee for the proposal from the College of Agriculture and Life Science to change the name of the Plant and Soil Sciences Department to the Agriculture, Landscape, and Environment (ALE) Department. The request also includes a new course prefix “ALE” for all courses currently listed as “PSS”. Approval is recommended for both the name change and the new course prefix. The name change will broaden the kinds of students choosing to enroll in the major, support faculty recruitment and better reflect the curriculum outreach and research endeavors of the department. The new name and course prefix more fully represents the mission of the program and expertise of the faculty. The faculty unanimously approved the proposed name change, and it was subsequently approved by the CALs curriculum committee.

Motion: Stephen Everse called a vote to approve the name change of the Plant and Soil Sciences Department to the Agriculture, Landscape, and Environment (ALE) Department, in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and to approve the new course prefix of ALE.

Vote: 15 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

C. Name Change for Electrical Engineering Program and new course prefix (CEMS)

Stephen Everse and Colby Kervick served as the review subcommittee for the proposal from the Electrical and Biomedical Engineering (EBE) Department in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Science to change the name of the Electrical Engineering (EE) major to the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and to create a new Computer Engineering course prefix (CMPE). Changing the undergraduate program name from Electrical Engineering to the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) will only serve to highlight to perspective students the breadth of the program being offered by Electrical and Biomedical Engineering (EBE). Similarly, the creation of a new prefix (CMPE) will make it easier for students in other majors to identify engaging and appropriate course for electives. The subcommittee recommends approval of both the program name change and the new course prefix.

Motion: Stephen Everse called a vote to approve the name change of the Electrical Engineering program to Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and to create a new Computer Engineering course prefix (CMPE).

Vote: 15 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

IV. Academic Program Reviews (APR) – Stephen Everse

- A. **Medical Education** – Meaghan Emery and Janet Murray served as the review subcommittee and recommend that the CAC accept the report as documentation that the APR process was correctly followed. Discussion included clarification of processes for recruitment of a diverse medical student population.

Motion: Stephen Everse called a vote to accept the subcommittee's report of the APR of the Medical Education program

Vote: 15 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

- B. **Medical Laboratory Sciences (BS and MS)** – Joan Rosebush and Elzerie de Jager served as the review subcommittee and recommend that the CAC accept the report as documentation that the APR process was correctly followed.

Motion: Stephen Everse called separate votes to accept the subcommittee's report of the APR of the Medical Laboratory Sciences BS program and MS program.

Vote on BS program: 15 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

Vote on MS program: 15 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. **The motion carried.**

V. Other Business

- A. Meagan Emery and Elizabeth Sargent served as CAC representatives on the Faculty Senate ad hoc committee on AI (Artificial Intelligence) and provided an update on the work of the committee. The committee has put together a list of recommendations for faculty to be used as a starting point for thinking about AI and to encourage faculty to have discussions within their departments and academic units about these issues.

VI. New Business

- A. Syllabus template – The Center for Teaching & Learning has a syllabus template posted on their website. J. Dickinson reported that the Student Affairs Committee expressed an interest in making a joint statement with the CAC to encourage faculty to use the template. The disparity in syllabi has negative consequences for students, and greater uniformity would make our educational product better. Colby Kervick and Stephen Everse stated that the topic is worthy of further exploration and will bring this topic to the unit curricular committees when they meet in January.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 PM