



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

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

Thursday, May 6, 2021, 4:15 – 6:15 pm

Present: Professors Almstead, Adair, Bailly, Budington, Burns, Dale, Emery, Everse, Garrison, Hazelrigg, Hibbeler, Hunt, Kervick, Monsen, Rosebush, Russell, Sargent, Seidl, Sherriff, Sisk, Teneback, Tomas

Absent: Professor Nichols

Guests: Jennifer Dickinson, Cynthia Forehand

Chair Almstead called the meeting to order at 4:15 on MS Teams.

I. **Approval of the Minutes.** The April 1, 2021 minutes were approved as written.

II. **Chair's Remarks** – Laura Almstead made the following remarks:

- The Faculty Senate approved all the items presented for vote at the April meeting. These items included: No-contest Termination Dietetics, Nutrition & Food Sciences major (CALs), No-contest Termination Sustainable Landscape Horticulture major (CALs), No-contest Deactivation Consumer Affairs minor (CALs) and No-contest Terminations of 16 Secondary Education minors (CESS).
- The CAC members offered a round of applause in appreciation of Laura's service as Chair of the CAC.

III. **Reports – (none at this time)**

IV. **Other Business:**

- A. **Micro-Certificate of Graduate Studies in Agroecology, CALS/GC (vote)** Laura Almstead presented a request from the Graduate College in conjunction with the Department of Plant and Soil Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) for a new Micro-Certificate of Graduate Studies in Agroecology (micro-CGSA). This new proposed micro-CGSA offering will address economic and scheduling barriers for students interested in pursuing an advanced graduate certification in Agroecology providing greater accessibility for a more diverse pool of applicants. This proposal is supported by the Department of Plant and Soil Science, the CALs curriculum committee, the CALs Dean, and was unanimously approved by the Graduate College Executive Committee.

Motion: Rosi Rosebush moved to approve the proposals from the Graduate College in conjunction with the Department of Plant and Soil Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) for a new Micro-Certificate of Graduate Studies in Agroecology (micro-CGSA).
The motion was seconded and carried.

B. No-Contest Deactivation MS in Engineering Management, CEMS/GC (vote) Laura Almstead presented a proposal from the Graduate College, in conjunction with the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (CEMS) for the deactivation of the Master of Science in Engineering Management (MSEM). The program has struggled to attract students and wishes to deactivate the program beginning in AY 22/23. They will use the deactivation period (up to 5 years) to explore ways to increase the success of the program. This deactivation of the MSEM is supported by the CEMS curriculum committee, the CEMS faculty, the Deans of CEMS and the Grossman School of Business and was approved by the Graduate College Executive Committee. Discussion topics included:

- Clarification of the process that led to the request for deactivation at the college level. Erik Monsen reported that he was a member of the Engineering Management curriculum committee that recommended that resources be invested and that the program not be deactivated. Their recommendation went to the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences curriculum committee, which recommended the program be deactivated. The decision was put to the full CEMS faculty for vote, where ~75% of the faculty voted in support of deactivation. No formal objections to the decision were raised by the faculty in the program. Erik commented that he felt that process was followed, and he would like to see the program reactivated under conditions that will be more favorable to its success (i.e. not in a pandemic).
- J. Dickinson and Laura Almstead confirmed that the process established for no-contest deactivation was followed. No comments were received during the 30-day comment period.
- Cynthia Forehand confirmed that the MS in Engineering Management is not a cross-college program, but is owned by CEMS, with GSB as a contributor.

Motion: Meaghan Emery moved to table the vote on the No-Contest Deactivation of the MS in Engineering Management for one-year. The motion was seconded.

Vote: 6 approve, 15 oppose. **The motion failed.**

Discussion continued on the proposal.

Motion: Stephen Everse moved to approve the request from the Graduate College, in conjunction with the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (CEMS) for the deactivation of the Master of Science in Engineering Management (MSEM).

Vote: 18 Approve, 2 oppose, 1 abstain. **The motion carried.**

C. Name Change: Health Sciences Program/Major/Degree (vote) Laura Almstead presented a request from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) to change the name of the Health Sciences program, major, and degree to Public Health Sciences. The name change will make the program and degree name more reflective of the curricular content and structure. In addition, it will increase prospective and current student understanding of the program's focus and help to clarify for community partners the knowledge and skills that our students will bring to their field work and internships. This proposal is supported by the CNHS curriculum

committee, the faculty in the Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences, and the Dean of CNHS. Letters of support are also included from the Larner College of Medicine, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Motion: Laura Almstead called a vote to approve the request from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) to change the name of the Health Sciences program, major, and degree to Public Health Sciences. **The motion was seconded and carried.**

V. **APR Reports –**

- A. **Nursing, CNHS (vote)** – Charlotte Teneback, Jason Hibbeler and Aaron Nichols served as the review subcommittee for the Department of Nursing in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The full report is attached to these minutes. The Department of Nursing is an externally accredited program, under the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). 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 Department mission, goals, and program outcomes are in line with both College and University missions. While the Department has found some creative solutions, more physical space for teaching is required to maintain a high-level learning experience for students and good teaching conditions for faculty. Overall, the Department of Nursing is a well-established Department, with engaged faculty, excellent enrollment, and successful program graduates. The Department has been able to adapt to changes in demand over time and remains relevant by meeting the demand for different programs. Members of the APR Subcommittee met with the DON Chair to review the external accreditation documentation, discuss updates, and active issues. The Chair was also offered the opportunity to review this report prior to completion. The external review was satisfactory, and the department had ample opportunity to respond. This subcommittee feels the process was followed appropriately.

Motion: Laura Almstead called a vote to accept the APR report for the Department of Nursing in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. **The motion carried.**

VI. **New Business:**

- Laura Almstead expressed appreciation for the hard work of the CAC members, and after 5 ½ years as Chair, she is stepping down to focus on teaching and will continue as a member of the CAC.
- Erik Monson is rolling off the CAC after 6-years of service.
- Jacques Bailly expressed a desire for the CAC or the Faculty Senate in general to do more with its authority to participate in the formulation of policy related to institutional priorities.
- Meaghan Emery questioned the recent bylaws amendment that removed the requirement of a CAC member to also serve on the Educational and Research Technologies Committee.

Rosemary Dale moved to adjourn at 5:34 PM.