



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

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

Thursday, November 5, 2020, 4:15 – 6:15 pm

Present: Professors Almstead, Dale, Emery, Everse, Garrison, Hazelrigg, Hibbeler, Kervick, Monsen, Nichols, Rosebush, Russell, Seidl, Sargent, Sherriff, Sisk, Teneback, Tomas

Absent: Professor Barnaby, Chittenden, Budington, Hunt, Ivakhiv

Guests: Jennifer Dickinson, Cindy Forehand, Beth Taylor-Nolan

Chair Almstead called the meeting to order at 4:17 pm on MS Teams.

I. **Approval of the Minutes.** The October 1, 2020 minutes were approved as written.

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

1. Laura and J. Dickinson met with Chris Berger who is leading the curriculum committee in the Larner College of Medicine. He is assembling a committee of people with experience serving on a curriculum committee to ensure a solid understanding of undergraduate course design and assessment.
2. Two items that will be on the docket for upcoming CAC meeting include: a proposal for a new Major in Community-Centered Design, and an update on the current Termination Policy.

III. **Reports** –

1. **New Entry-Level Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD), CNHS/GC (vote)** – Joan Rosebush and Stephen Everse served as the review subcommittee for this proposal and their report is attached to these minutes. The proposal, from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Sciences in conjunction with the Graduate College is for a new Entry-Level Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD). The program represents the first educational opportunity in OT in the State of Vermont – the only state that does not currently offer any OT degree. The workforce demand for occupational therapists is increasing and expected to be robust for many years. Vermont will soon be able to meet its future workforce needs in OT without students needing to leave the state to be trained. The support of chairs and deans is evident. The hybrid model will provide flexibility to students, which will help make the program attractive. While the absence of a permanent Dean in the CNHS makes this an awkward time to initiate a program requiring significant resources, the proposed program seems sound. Stephen Everse reported that the program is in line for national accreditation. Laura Almstead stated that the proposed Entry-Level OTD is a

reinvestment of the energy and resources intended for the Post-Professional OTD (PPOTD), and a proposal to deactivate the PPOTD was submitted in parallel.

Motion: Laura Almstead called a vote to approve the proposal for a new Entry-Level Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD) in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. **The motion carried unanimously.**

2. Deactivation Post-Professional OTD, CNHS/GC – The Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Sciences (RMS) in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) is requesting deactivation of the online post-professional doctorate in Occupational Therapy. This recently approved program (2019) has not yet accepted students and the deactivation will have no adverse effect on faculty. The action has been approved by the Dean of CNHS, the Chair of RMS, the faculty member affiliated with the program, and the Graduate College Executive Committee.

Motion: Stephen Everse moved to deactivate the Post-Professional doctorate in Occupational Therapy in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. **The motion was seconded and carried.**

IV. Other Business:

A. Concentrations in Interprofessional Health Sciences PhD, CNHS/GC

Laura Almstead presented a proposal from the Graduate College in conjunction with the College of Nursing and Health Sciences for the addition of optional concentrations to the Interprofessional Health Sciences (IHS) PhD curriculum. All IHS students must complete 4 research rotations before they initiate their doctoral research, and the new concentrations represent the research foci for these rotations. Establishing the four concentrations allows this to be documented on a student's transcript. The four concentration areas are: Communication Sciences and Disorders, Biomedical and Health Sciences, Rehabilitation and Movement Science, and Integrative Health. The proposal was approved by the CNHS Curriculum Committee, the Graduate College Executive Committee, and the relevant department faculty.

Motion: Amy Tomas moved to approve the new concentrations in the Interprofessional Health Sciences PhD. **The motion was seconded and carried.**

B. Discontinuation CAS Online Degree Completion Pathway, CAS

Laura Almstead reported that the College of Arts and Sciences has requested to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts degree completion pathway that included a major in Anthropology and a minor in either Writing or English as well as the University-wide General Education requirements and CAS distribution requirements. Due to low enrollments, the program is not financially sustainable. Each of the seven students currently enrolled will be supported by the college to develop a plan to allow them to complete the program.

Motion: Joan Rosebush moved to approve the discontinuation of the CAS Online Degree Completion Pathway. **The motion was seconded and carried.**

V. **APR Reports**

A. **Public Administration, CALS/GC (vote).** Amy Tomas, and Meaghan Emery acted as the review subcommittee, and their report is attached to these minutes. Having reviewed the self-study report and the external review, the review subcommittee recommends a positive assessment of the Master's in Public Administration program. They reported that the APR process was followed appropriately and that the program is to be commended on a number of key strengths, including the strong feeling of community between students, faculty, and alumni. The program is the only nationally accredited MPA degree in the state, and attracts talent to the state, and retain homegrown talent.

Motion: Stephen Everse moved to accept the subcommittee's report on the APR of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program. **The motion was seconded and carried.**

VI. **New Business: none at this time.**

VII. **Adjournment** at 5:23 p.m.