

## Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

### MEMO

To: Faculty Senate

From: Colby Kervick, Co-chair Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

Date: April 6, 2023

Re: Approval of a no-contest termination of the minor in Special Education with Endorsement in the College of Education and Social Services

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The CAC approved a proposal to terminate minor in Special Education with Endorsement in the College of Education and Social Services due to low enrollment, and related curricular changes in a substantial revision of the major in Early Childhood Special Education which will be expanded to incorporate the curricular focus that was part of the minor. The vote was 17 approve and 1 abstain.

Enrollment in the Special Education Minor with Endorsement has been declining, and other options will better prepare special educators to enter and stay in the field. These options include a revised Special Education major (birth to age 21) which was approved by the CAC on 4/6/2023; the existing Special Education minor (available to all UVM students); and the accelerated master's program (AMP) in special education. Termination of the Special Education Minor with Endorsement is likely to encourage enrollment in the revised undergraduate major and the AMP, which both offer options for endorsement.

The proposal includes a plan that allows current students to complete the Special Education Minor with Endorsement. Individual teach-out plans will allow the 20 students enrolled in the program in September 2022 access to necessary courses and graduation with no delays.

There is strong support for the no-contest termination. The EDSP faculty endorsed the proposal with a vote of 11-0, and the CESS Curricular Affairs Committee supported it with a vote of 5-0. Department Chair Kimberly Vannest and CESS Dean Katharine Shepherd also support the termination proposal.

The no-contest termination of the minor would go into effect for the 2024-25 catalog year pending Faculty Senate and Board of Trustee approval.