

Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

MEMO

To: The UVM Faculty Senate

From: Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Laura Almstead, Chair

Date: November 7, 2019

Re: Items approved by the Curricular Affairs Committee that do not require a Faculty Senate vote

Request for Substantial Changes to the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

The Grossman School of Business (GSB) submitted a proposal to eliminate the requirement for a minor to complete the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Students in the program will still be strongly encouraged to pursue a minor. The proposal was approved by the GSB Undergraduate Studies Committee, GSB faculty, GSB Board of Directors, Grossman Student Advisory Committee, and the Dean of GSB, Sanjay Sharma. Letters of support were also provided by deans of the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, College of Education and Social Services, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences was contacted several times but did not provide a letter of support or opposition. Few GSB students pursue minors in CALS.

Currently, students in GSB complete at least 30 credits of coursework outside GSB to fulfill University-wide General Education requirements and minor requirements. The proposed change would allow students to replace the five to six courses (~15 to 18 credits) in a minor with courses of their choice. The primary goal of the change is to allow GSB students more flexibility to build relevant connections across fields in support of their chosen area of interest. (All students in the program choose one of three interdisciplinary strategic themes by the end of their sophomore year, which include Global Business, Sustainable Business, and Entrepreneurship.) Additionally, the changes will make it easier for students such as transfer students, Honors College Students, ROTC students, varsity athletes, and students who wish to study abroad to complete their degree in four years. With the existing requirements, students in these categories cannot complete the GSB program in four years without AP credits and/or carefully selecting courses that can double-count for requirements. Students that have the flexibility to pursue a minor will be strongly encouraged to do so. The GSB program is an accredited degree, and the proposers indicate that not requiring a minor is consistent with AACSB-accredited peers. Of twenty-eight peer institutions surveyed, only four other business programs require students to complete a minor.