MEMO

To: The UVM Faculty Senate
From: Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Laura Almstead, Chair
Date: December 8, 2017
Re: Approval of a proposal of the creation of a new degree at the University of Vermont, the Master of Professional Studies (MPS) degree; and a second proposal to terminate the existing Leadership for Sustainability Concentration in the Master of Science in Natural Resources

At its meeting on November 4, 2017, the Curricular Affairs Committee approved a proposal submitted by the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources (RSENR) and the Graduate College to change the existing Leadership for Sustainability Concentration of the Master of Science (MS) in Natural Resources to a separate Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in Leadership for Sustainability. Implicit in that approval were two related actions:

1- Approval of the creation of a new degree at the University of Vermont, the Master of Professional studies (MPS) degree. A Master of Professional Studies degree is concentrated in a field of applied studies. MPS degrees are often interdisciplinary, and are designed for current or aspiring professionals with an emphasis on professional skills. Although MPS degrees are relatively common nationwide, they have not previously been offered at UVM.

2 - The termination of the existing Leadership for Sustainability Concentration in the Master of Science in Natural Resources. Support for the termination is widespread: the request to replace the Leadership for Sustainability Concentration in the NR MS with an MPS in Leadership for Sustainability was endorsed by RSENR Dean Mathews and was unanimously approved by the RSENR Curriculum Committee and the faculty. CDE Dean Belliveau, the Graduate College Executive Council, and Cynthia Forehand, Dean of the Graduate College also supported the requested change.

However, since that time, it has become clear that it is necessary to make CAC and Senate approval of these two actions explicit. Thus the CAC was polled electronically on December 8, 2017 asking if members approved these two actions. Support for the creation of the new degree was unanimous; with respect to the termination of the existing concentration, all but one responding member voted in favor of the action. That member abstained.

We are now bringing these actions to the Senate for its review and approval.