

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: March 1, 2018

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

Request to Change the BA in Plant Biology Offered Through CAS to a BS Degree

The Department of Plant Biology in the College of Agriculture and Life Science submitted a request to change the Bachelor of Arts in Plant Biology offered through the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) to a Bachelor of Science degree. This change is supported by the Plant Biology Department faculty and curriculum committee as well as the curriculum committees, faculty, and deans of CAS and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs).

Currently, students can pursue a Plant Biology major through CALs or CAS. The requirements for the degree are the same, however students in CAS are awarded a BA, while students in CALs receive a BS. In discussions of the concentration eliminations approved last month by the CAC and shared with the Faculty Senate, it became apparent that the degree requirements (both prior to and following the concentration eliminations) were out of compliance with the standards in CAS for a Bachelor of Arts degree and matched the standards for a BS degree. The curriculum committees in the Plant Biology Department and both colleges concluded that the best course of action would be to change the Plant Biology BA in CAS to a BS degree with no change to the requirements for the degree, hence their request.