

## Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

### MEMO

**To:** The UVM Faculty Senate

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

**Date:** October 7, 2021

**Re:** Approval of a proposal from College of Nursing and Health Sciences for a no contest deactivation of the RN to BS program in nursing

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On October 7, 2021, the Curricular Affairs Committee approved the actions recommended in the following memo.

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The Curricular Affairs Committee approved a proposal from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences to deactivate the RN to BS Program in Nursing due to consistent low enrollment. While historically there was a need for the program to assist nurses in attaining bachelor level credentials, that need is no longer in demand due to an array of new options and vendors available nationally to support nurses who hold an associate degree in earning their bachelor level credentials. Additionally, it is extremely unlikely that there will be a need for this program in the future for the following two reasons: 1) the competition for these students has increased significantly and will continue to increase if the market exists; and 2) the market will not continue to exist, as increasingly nurses are prepared at the baccalaureate level per national nursing organization initiatives.

Two students remain in the program. The students have completed all their nursing courses and are in the process of completing other requirements for a UVM degree. Students have been advised for two years that the program was not accepting new admission and would likely deactivate. These students have a faculty advisor from the department and receive communications frequently prior to registration supporting their completion. It is expected that these students will finish by May 2022. There are no faculty positions lost with this deactivation, part time faculty and faculty on overload have been teaching the courses. Faculty have identified and fully discussed that this program is no longer viable at the University of Vermont. On March 24, 2021, the following motion was presented to the faculty: "Recognizing the decrease in the enrollment in the RN to BS program, the Department of Nursing recommends an uncontested deactivation of the program." Nursing faculty by a majority vote of 24 yeas, 1 abstain and 1 no voted to deactivate the program. In addition, the proposal received support from the CNHS curriculum committee as well as Dean Noma Anderson. If approved by the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees, the no contest deactivation would go into effect during the 2022-23 catalog year.