

## 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 Richard Watts, the Director of the Vermont Studies Program and the College of Arts and Sciences, to terminate the Vermont Studies minor.

---

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

---

The Curricular Affairs Committee approved a proposal from Richard Watts, the Director of the Vermont Studies Program and the College of Arts and Sciences, for a no-contest termination of the Vermont Studies minor due to low enrollment and little demand at the present time. This action was approved by the CAS Curriculum Committee at its meeting of March 26, 2021. Further, a rationale and support letter were provided by the Associate Dean and Dean of CAS. In addition, the no-contest termination was approved by electronic vote of the broader CAS Faculty at the meeting of April 20, 2021; the results of the vote for the proposal were 11 votes for, 2 votes against, and 2 abstentions.

While students are very interested in courses on Vermont, they are not interested in combining separate courses into a distinct minor in the area. Terminating the minor does not affect interest in or enrollments in core courses when they are offered. Termination of this minor has no implications for loss of faculty and/or staff. The minor has had an average of 3 students over the last 3 years and has graduated fewer than one student with the minor over that same period. There is one course for the minor, Vermont Studies 052, and it will not be deactivated. Currently, there are 2 students enrolled in the minor, one junior and one senior. Except for Vermont Studies 052, all courses for the minor are courses offered by other programs. Thus, the enrolled students will be able to complete the minor without difficulty.

In a memo included in the proposal packet Associate Dean Abigail McGowan reiterated the importance of finding new and expanded ways to connect CAS students to place-based learning opportunities through continued partnership between CAS and the Vermont Studies program.

If approved by the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees, the no contest termination would go into effect during the 2022-23 catalog year.