



Minutes

Monday, October 18, 2021

Online via Microsoft Teams 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Recording of this meeting is available on Microsoft Sharepoint

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President, Thomas Borchert at 4:00 PM

Senators in Attendance: 69

Absent: Senators Agnarsson (Biology), Calkins (Family Medicine), Weinstein (Family Medicine), Mieder (German & Russian), Spees (Medicine), Terrien (Medicine), Moore (Pediatrics), Maruti (Psychiatry), Danks (RSENr)

1. Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks – Thomas Borchert spoke about shared governance. The University Manual (Section 2.6.2), as well as the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws, outlines the direct and indirect authority of the Faculty Senate. President Borchert has focused on ensuring that members of the faculty are in the room when decisions are being made to both ensure that faculty interests are represented, and to utilize the faculty expertise to benefit the University in fulfilling its mission. The Senate will be voting on both the establishment and termination of programs, and on procedures to regularize Senate participation in unit level restructuring. These procedures and documents like the University Manual and the Senate Constitution and Bylaws are important guardrails that guide how we act, and who has authority. President Borchert reminded the Senate that these documents are not permanent but are tools that can change as conditions demand, so it is important to attend to the process laid out for making changes to ensure that all stakeholders are heard during the change process.

2. Consent Agenda – The following items were voted as a consent agenda:

- Minutes of the September 2021 Faculty Senate Meeting
- Ad hoc Committee on Senate Authority – Amendment to Resolution regarding ad hoc committee membership
- Curricular Affairs
 - a) No-contest Deactivation of the RN-BS Program in Nursing (CNHS)
 - b) No-contest Termination Italian Studies Major (CAS)
 - c) No-Contest Termination Italian Minor (CAS)
 - d) No-Contest Termination Speech and Debate Minor (CAS)
 - e) No-contest Termination VT Studies Minor (CAS)

- f) New Certificate of Graduate Study and Micro-Certificate of Graduate Study in Education for Sustainability (GRAD/CESS)

Motion: President Borchert stated that the consent agenda came to the Senate moved and seconded by the Executive Council. A call was made for requests to pull any item off the consent agenda before the vote. No requests were received, and the vote opened.

Vote: 61 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. **The motion carried.**

3. Committee Reports – Two written reports were submitted by Senate Standing Committees regarding action taken by the committees. These actions do not require a vote by the full Senate. The following reports are attached to these minutes:

- Curricular Affairs Committee Report on Actions Taken in Committee
- Student Affairs Committee Report on Actions Taken in Committee

4. Presentation of Degrees – It was moved, seconded, and voted that the following numbers of graduates be recommended by the Senate to the President for the awarding of the appropriate degrees or certificates as authorized by the Board of Trustees. Individual names of the graduates are recorded with the minutes of this meeting in the permanent Senate records.

Degrees: Graduate College (42)

Vote: 60 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. **The motion carried.**

5. Revised Procedures for Academic Organization

Thomas Borchert presented revised versions of the Senate Procedures Related to the Establishment, Reorganization, and Elimination of: 1) Colleges and Schools, 2) a School within a College, and 3) a Department. The Senate procedures for changing academic structure of units have been the subject of Senate discussion since March 2021. The procedures were passed by the Senate in May 2021 and brought back to the Senate in September 2021 with proposed changes in sections 2, 3, and 4. At the September Senate meeting, a few changes were suggested by Louis deRosset, Senator from the Philosophy Department, to clarify the charge of the ad hoc committee that reviews proposals. Thomas Borchert worked with Professor deRosset and Vice Provost Dickinson on these changes. Changes presented to the Senate for consideration and vote at this meeting include:

- 1) Section 2B was revised from “an ad hoc committee of nine members will review the proposal”, to “an ad hoc committee of nine members will be constituted to gather faculty commentary, review the proposal and make recommendations regarding the proposal to the Faculty Senate.”, and
- 2) Section 4C was revised from “at the time of circulation an ad hoc committee will be appointed and begin its work to review the comments and evaluate the proposal. The committee may ask clarifying questions from the proposal’s authors, or request additional relevant information needed to make a recommendation to the Senate”, to “The committee may solicit comment (either in writing or in person) from faculty and the proposal’s authors, or request additional relevant information needed to make recommendation of the Senate.”

Thomas Borchert opened the floor for discussion. Discussion topics included both support for and concerns about the revised procedures. Statements of support involved shared governance

and the guarantee that processes provide for review by a committee composed of faculty selected and run by faculty, charged with gathering and summarizing the view of faculty. Concerns included the desire to ensure the process is robust, and not simply a consent process.

Motion: Thomas Borchert called a vote on the Revised Senate Procedures Related to the Establishment, Reorganization, and Elimination of 1) Colleges and Schools, 2) a School within a College, and 3) a Department.

Vote: 46 approved, 6 opposed, 11 abstained. The motion carried.

6. Catamount Core Curriculum –Pablo Bose and J. Dickinson presented an overview of the Catamount Core. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes. The presentation included where to find information on the website, such as the course action supplement forms for course approvals for Gen Ed designation, rules for the Catamount Core, the work of the Catamount Core Curriculum Committee, and a review of the implementation timetable. J. Dickinson announced the receipt of a Davis Educational Foundation grant to cover two years of faculty development and assessment work associated with UVM’s General Education program. The presentation also included a list of frequently asked questions from faculty regarding submission of courses for Gen Ed designation. Faculty with questions should reach out to Pablo Bose (Pablo.Bose@uvm.edu) for assistance.

7. New Business –

David Feurzeig, Senator representing the Department of Music asked that the Senate consider the potential effects of departmental changes on Senate representation. President Borchert will bring this question to the Executive Council.

Thomas Borchert announced that Simeon Ananou, CIO, and Jim Vigoreaux, VP for Faculty Affairs have invited and are encouraging faculty to attend presentations by the two Learning Management System (LMS) vendors being considered to replace BlackBoard. Demonstrations for faculty by D2L (Brightspace) and Instructure (Canvas) will take place October 29th and November 3rd.

Jacques Baily moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 PM

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: Report out on items voted on by the Curricular Affairs Committee that do not require Faculty Senate vote

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

I. APR Subcommittee reports:

- Pathology
- Material Science
- Biochemistry and Chemistry

All three of these APR subcommittee reports were presented to the CAC. CAC committee members voted to accept the subcommittee reports as acknowledgement that the APR process was faithfully executed for each of these academic program reviews.

II. CAC committee voted to add a check box to the new proposal submission guidelines to encourage increased communication between units proposing new programs and UVM Libraries. The committee believes adding this minor revision to the form will encourage increased collaboration and coordination between program proposers, Deans and UVM Libraries around current resources available to support new programs as well as more clearly identifying resource needs. The language added to the new proposal guidelines approved by the CAC:

[] A representative from the proposing unit has consulted with the Libraries to determine what resources are available and what may be needed to support the new program

The new proposal guidelines will be updated with this new language and uploaded to the faculty senate curricular resources page.



Student Affairs Committee

MEMO

To: The UVM Faculty Senate

From: Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Jennifer Prue, Co-Chair

Date: October 7, 2021

Re: Report-Out of Action Taken by the Student Affairs Committee that does not require a Faculty Senate vote

On October 7, 2021, the Student Affairs Committee approved a request from the Provost's Office to grant late withdrawal flexibility for Fall 2021.

Purpose of the Resolution for Late Withdrawal Flexibility for Fall 2021

The purpose of late withdrawal flexibility for Fall 2021 remains the same as for the previous semesters in which it was granted, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021: to acknowledge the broad disruption of students' education caused by the pandemic, and to acknowledge that these disruptions may not directly involve medical issues, but are similarly unpredictable in their timing and in the delayed and extended impact they may have on students' ability to complete their coursework. This flexibility is exercised by the Student Services/Dean's office staff who normally manage late withdraw requests, and requires the same documentation process as for late withdrawals that conform to the standard policy in place. The resolution below was brought forward to the SAC by Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success J. Dickinson, and was unanimously approved by the SAC.

Resolution approved by the SAC on Thursday, 10/7/2021:

For the Fall 2021 semester, the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate supports the Student Services Collaborative in their work with UVM students by granting additional flexibility in the reasons and specific documentation required to grant a late withdrawal request for a student. Students will need to follow regular late withdrawal procedures by requesting a late withdrawal from their Dean's office. The Dean's office will gather more information about the student's situation and will determine whether extenuating circumstances related to COVID-19 played a significant role in the student's ability to progress in the courses or courses for which a withdraw is requested. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis and all emails and other documentation related to the process will be kept to support records of all approved W requests. This flexibility is for the Fall 2021 semester only.



CATAMOUNT CORE OVERVIEW

Faculty Senate Meeting

10/18/21

Pablo Bose

Provost's Faculty Fellow for the Catamount Core

J. Dickinson

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success



The University of Vermont

Where can I find more information?

www.uvm.edu/generaleducation

For course action supplement forms, click on the “button” on the right side of the webpage.

MENU **GENERAL EDUCATION** AT UVM



The General Education Program reflects the faculty's aspirations for all UVM undergraduates. General Education is the foundation of a transformative educational experience that prepares students to become accountable leaders who bring to their work dedication to the global community, a grasp of complexity, effective problem-solving and communication skills, and an enduring commitment to learning and ethical conduct. General Education courses

**COURSE ACTION FORM
SUPPLEMENTS** 

Rules for the Catamount Core

- **42 Credits, three curricular areas:** Liberal Arts, Core Skills, Common Ground Values
- **40 credit rule:** Students can “double dip,” but they must still take 40 credits of Gen Ed approved courses overall
- **Central Approval:** A university-wide Catamount Core Curriculum Committee (CCCC) will approve courses; current Gen Ed committees will be folded into this larger committee
- **Criteria-based Approval:** All Catamount Core course designations must be approved by the University Catamount Core Curriculum Committee based on established approval criteria for each General Education requirement.
- **Multiple designations:** A course can carry multiple designations. In most cases, a course will carry no more than three designations.



CATAMOUNT CORE CURRICULUM

CATAMOUNT CORE is made up of 42 credits in courses distributed across three main areas: **LIBERAL ARTS** (21 credits); **CORE SKILLS** (9 credits); and **COMMON GROUND VALUES** (12 credits).

Students will be able to take courses that fulfill more than one category **BUT** they **MUST** still take at least 40 unique credits of courses that have been approved to fulfill CATAMOUNT CORE CURRICULUM requirements.

Approved by
Faculty Senate
vote 4/20/2020

LIBERAL ARTS

21 CREDITS

AH1, AH2	ARTS AND HUMANITIES 6 credits
S1	SOCIAL SCIENCES 6 credits
N1, N2	NATURAL SCIENCES 6 credits
MA	PURE MATHEMATICS 3 credits

CORE SKILLS

9 CREDITS

QD	QUANTITATIVE AND DATA LITERACY 3 credits
WIL1	COMMUNICATION 1 Foundational Writing and Info Literacy 3 credits
WIL2	COMMUNICATION 2 3 credits from: Writing and Info Literacy Tier 2 or OC
OC	Oral Communication

COMMON GROUND VALUES

12 CREDITS

D1	DIVERSITY 1
D2	3-6 credits DIVERSITY 2 0-3 credits
SU	SUSTAINABILITY 3 credits
GC	GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP 3 credits

Catamount Core Curriculum Committee

- Joint ad hoc committee responsible for the gen ed program
 - Will become a Faculty Senate standing committee over time
- Led (this year) by Pablo Bose, Provost's Fellow for Catamount Core
- Elected members from each undergrad college, HCOL, Libraries plus appointed members in each Catamount Core category
- Takes on the work of the SCRC, DCRC, QR committees

Implementation Timeline

Academic Year	Implementation Goals
2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Apply for Davis Educational Foundation grant (received \$217,000 over two years)- Establish ad hoc Catamount Core Curriculum Committee- Bring finalized category descriptions and approval criteria to FS for approval- Units begin to address curriculum and catalogue changes to align with Catamount Core
2021-2022 2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 4C committee launches; Course approvals begin for all categories- Assessment Postdoc hired to work on assessment plan- Efforts to build capacity in new areas (OC, WIL2, GC1, QD) through faculty development- Units address curriculum and other changes to align with Gen Ed by fall 23 catalogue
2023-2024	Implementation of the full curriculum starting with the class of 2027 Students entering before Fall 2023 continue in the previous curriculum
2023-2025	Assessment of progress, and opportunity to consider some revisions to the curriculum. Spring 2024: 5-year interim report to NECHE.

How do faculty apply for approval?

- For existing courses, follow the process for modifying an existing course. Check “yes” under “Does this course action include a General Education action?” and then choose those designations that apply. The Course Action Supplement Form for those designations should be attached along with the syllabus.
- For new courses, follow the process for a new course proposal. Check “yes” under “Does this course action include a General Education action?” and then choose those designations that apply. The Course Action Supplement Form for those designations should be attached along with the syllabus.

FAQs

Do Gen Ed courses need to be open to all students?

NO. Courses may have prerequisites or other restrictions.

Can courses carry multiple designations?

YES, but three is the limit, and there are some exclusions.

Do unit curriculum committees approve Catamount Core classes?

YES. Courses are approved at the unit level; CCCC approves the addition of general education *designations*.

Do our college/school requirements need to be the same as the Catamount Core?

NO. However, all students are required to complete the Catamount Core as well as college/school requirements.

FAQs

Can all courses that obviously fit a category be approved without applying, or one application made for all of them?

No. There are no “blanket” or discipline-based approvals. All classes must demonstrate how approval criteria are met.

Do courses just reapproved for D1/D2 or SU designations have to reapply?

The courses with existing D1/D2 and SU designations following the full reviews conducted in the past 3 years are all active. All course designations are approved for 5 years, and therefore they do not need to be re-evaluated until the designation expires 5 years after initial approval or re-approval.

Can special topics or individual sections of a course receive designations?

No. Individual Special Topics have not been able to receive Gen Ed designations since 2019. Gen Ed designations are applied at the course level, not the section level; we encourage programs to consider adding a new course number to accommodate versions of courses that could have additional Gen Ed designations.

Questions?



The University of Vermont