



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Monday, August 28, 2023

4:00 – 5:30 PM, Memorial Lounge, 338 Waterman

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President, Thomas Borchert at 4:02 PM

Senators in Attendance: 60

Absent: Senators: Vacant (Anesthesiology Rep2), Vacant (CDAE), Vacant (Counseling, Human Development & Family Science), Stratton (Education Rep2), Hazelrigg (Extension), Berns (Family Medicine Rep2), de Jager (Medicine Rep2), Saia (Pediatrics Rep1), Vacant (Plant Biology), Gorres (Plant & Soil Science), Gardner (Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Rep 1) Tsai (Radiology Rep1), Vacant (RSCA), Smith (Rehabilitation & Movement Sciences), vacant (Religion), Danks (RSEN Rep2), Commerford (Social Work), Pulcini (Surgery Rep2)

1. **Faculty Senate President's Welcome Remarks** – Thomas Borchert made the following remarks:

- Reminder that the August, October, February, and May Senate meetings will be held in-person. All other meetings will be held on Teams. The September 18th meeting falls earlier than the general meeting pattern to avoid the Jewish High Holiday of Yom Kippur.
- The election for the next Faculty Senate President will be held in March 2024. The President-elect will work with Tom Borchert to prepare for leadership transition in the Fall of 2025. Please reach out to Tom if you are interested in learning more about the Faculty Senate presidency.
- In May 2023, the Senate passed a resolution on the University's response to the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) investigation. As required by the resolution, President Borchert delivered the resolution to the members of the UVM Board of Trustees and received confirmation of receipt on August 2nd. In addition, the Faculty Senate Executive Council had the opportunity to review and suggest some changes in the bias response team process prior to the report being submitted to OCR. The OCR has acknowledged receipt of the report.

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

A. Minutes of the May 2023 Faculty Senate meeting

Motion: President Borchert stated that the consent agenda came to the Senate moved and seconded by the Executive Council. No requests were made to pull items from the consent agenda.

Vote: 45 approved, 0 opposed, 9 abstained. **The motion carried.**

3. Degree Conferrals

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:

Agriculture and Life Sciences (25)
Arts and Sciences (57 Bachelor of Arts, 4 Bachelor of Science)
Education and Social Services (4)
Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (22)
Graduate College (118)
Grossman School of Business (18)
Patrick Leahy Honors College (3)
Nursing and Health Sciences (10)
Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources (13)

Vote: 54 approved, 1 opposed, 0 abstained. The motion carried.

4. **Faculty Senate Orientation and Committee Introduction.** Thomas Borchert provided an overview of the structure of the Faculty Senate, including the Executive Council and the six standing committees. Presentation slides are attached to these minutes. President Borchert introduced the chairs of the six standing committees, who presented the goals for their committee for the academic year.

Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) – Co-Chairs Colby Kervick and Stephen Everse. In addition to the ongoing review of curricular proposals and academic program review, the CAC will continue to partner with the unit level curriculum committees. Stephen Everse reported that the CAC will be reviewing the proposal for a co-major credential and anticipates receiving requests for program revisions resulting in the course renumbering process. There will be a more responsive timeframe for curricular proposal review because the public comment circulation period has been reduced from 30-days to 15-days. This reduction is based on the unit curriculum committees doing more work to ensure proposals are vetted before they come to the CAC.

Educational Research Technologies Committee (ERTC) – Chair Helen Read reported that the ERTC is concerned with the intersection of the technological tools and the educational processes. Chair Read stated that last year their work was on aspects of the transition to the BrightSpace learning management system. The ERTC anticipates that they will be working on a policy for computer life-cycle for faculty/staff, and will participate in the search for a new CIO.

Financial and Physical Planning Committee (FPPC) – Chair Guillermo Rodriguez. – The FPPC provides information to the administration about the needs and priorities of the faculty in connection to the management of the physical plant and budget building each year. Two objectives this year are to examine the impact of tuition freeze on student experience (i.e., impacts on units such as the Career Center, and the Mosaic Center), and the budgetary challenges in pursuit of RI status.

Professional Standards Committee (PSC) – Chair Carolyn Bonifield – The PSC serves as advisory to Provost on all matters related to reappointment, promotion, and tenure (RPT) decisions, as well as on sabbatical applications.

Research, Scholarship, and The Creative Arts Committee (RSCA) – Thomas Borchert reported that RSCA is currently without a chair. The RSCA considers matters that are relevant to supporting the success of research, scholarship and the creative arts for faculty and students. They meet regularly with campus leaders including the VP for Research, the Dean of Libraries, the Sponsored Program Administration, and the Dean of the Graduate College, to help the faculty achieve their success. The RSCA will be reviewing the proposals to establish new institutes that are anticipated this fall.

Student Affairs Committee (SAC) – Co-Chairs Steve Gove and Jennifer Prue – The SAC focuses on issues related to the student experience on campus and off campus. The SAC recommends policy around issues that impact students. The SAC anticipates that they will be following-up on the OCR complaint, and working to develop a policy regarding course activities that take place outside the scheduled class time. Items for consideration can be brought to the SAC by students, the Student Government Association, or other student groups, faculty, colleges, or administrative offices.

5. **Upcoming Senate Work**

Immediate work anticipated:

- Proposal for Co-Major Credential
- Proposals for Water Institute and Proposal for Rural Partnerships Institute

Longer term items:

- Faculty Senate Bylaws review and update to reflect the Catamount Core Committee and the DEI Committee
- The Provost's Initiative for Planetary Health

Additional activities with Senate involvement:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Working Group established with representation from WID, Center for Student Conduct and members of three Senate Standing Committees. Goal is to provide guidance for addressing AI matters in teaching and research.
- Open Access and Open Science - Tom Borchert is working with Libraries Dean Geffert and Acting Director of the Gund Institute Meredith Niles, who has expertise in the area of open access, to develop mechanisms for documenting, promoting, and incorporating open access into RPT practices.
- The Executive Council is meeting with the Provost to talk about the Academic Success Goals, as part of the long term planning.

6. **Proposal to Establish Co-Major Credential** (discussion) – Abby McGowan and Stephen Everse presented an overview of the proposal to create a co-major credential at UVM. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes, and include the definition, core ideas, goals, and mechanics of establishing a co-major. The Faculty Senate will be asked to vote on proposal to establish the credential at the October 2023 meeting. If approved, the Board of Trustees will likely discuss the credential at their October meeting, and vote on the

credential at the February 2024 Board of Trustees meeting. If the credential proposal is approved, units would be invited to submit proposals for individual co-majors, with the first votes on proposals from individual co-major units making it to the BOT by May 2024. Discussion included clarification that a co-major is not student led, the units must decide and initiate the co-major. Proposals for co-majors must declare the number of overlap credits allowed.

The proposal for to establish an Undergraduate Co-Major Credential at UVM along with a template for a co-major curriculum proposal and a template for a co-major MOU are available on the Faculty Senate sharepoint site (login required)
<https://uvmoffice.sharepoint.com/sites/FacultySenate>

- 7. Proposal for Eclipse Events** (discussion) – Abby McGowan and Helen Read presented a proposal for UVM to observe Monday, April 8, 2024 as a Total Solar Eclipse Day. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes, and include the planning committee, unique opportunities, and related programming. The proposed schedule of events is available on the Faculty Senate SharePoint site (login required)

<https://uvmoffice.sharepoint.com/sites/FacultySenate>

President Borchert stated that the Faculty Senate has responsibility to approve the Academic Calendar prepared by the Registrar. If the observance of Total Solar Eclipse Day would require changes to the Academic Calendar, the Faculty Senate will need to vote on the proposed changes at the September 2023 meeting.

- 8. New Business** – none at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Faculty Senate Orientation

- Mission and Function
- Partners in Shared Governance
- Structure of the Faculty Senate
- Faculty Senators: Roles and Responsibilities
- Introduction to the Senate Standing Committees
- Questions and Discussion



Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, FACULTY SENATE

Last revised: October 2001. Approved by the Faculty Senate November 19, 2001. Approved by the Board of Trustees February 23, 2002.

Amended: May 1, 2006; March 14, 2011; April 23, 2012; February 13, 2014; November 12, 2015; December 23, 2015 , April 9, 2021

PREAMBLE

The administration and the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont share responsibility for the effective management of the academic affairs of the University. Authority in matters related to the academic mission of the University is vested in the faculty by the Board of Trustees. This authority is exercised in the Faculty Senate by elected senators with voting privileges and by committees authorized to act on their behalf. Meetings of the Faculty Senate are presided over by a President and Vice-President and follow a town-meeting format at which all University faculty members have a voice. The activities of the Senate are overseen by an Executive Council.

“Authority in matters related to the academic mission of the University is vested in the faculty by the Board of Trustees. This authority is exercised in the Faculty Senate”

Mission & Function of the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws

Authority: Under the authority of the Board of Trustees, the UVM Faculty Senate is empowered:

1.1 To review and establish policy with respect to .. all curricular matters, research and scholarship, requirements for regular certificates and degrees, professional standards and criteria for positions accorded academic rank.

1.2 To review, recommend, and participate in the formulation of policy e.g., institutional priorities; allocation and utilization of the University's resources; the establishment or elimination of colleges and departments; faculty appointment, promotion, tenure, dismissal, leaves, and economic benefits; admission procedures and quotas; student financial aid.

Mission & Function of the Faculty Senate

Constitution and Bylaws - Preamble

The administration and the Faculty Senate of the University of Vermont share responsibility for the effective management of the **academic affairs of the University.**

Meetings of the Faculty Senate are presided over by a President and Vice-President and follow a town-meeting format at which all University faculty members have a voice.

The activities of the Senate are overseen by an Executive Council.



Partners in Shared Governance

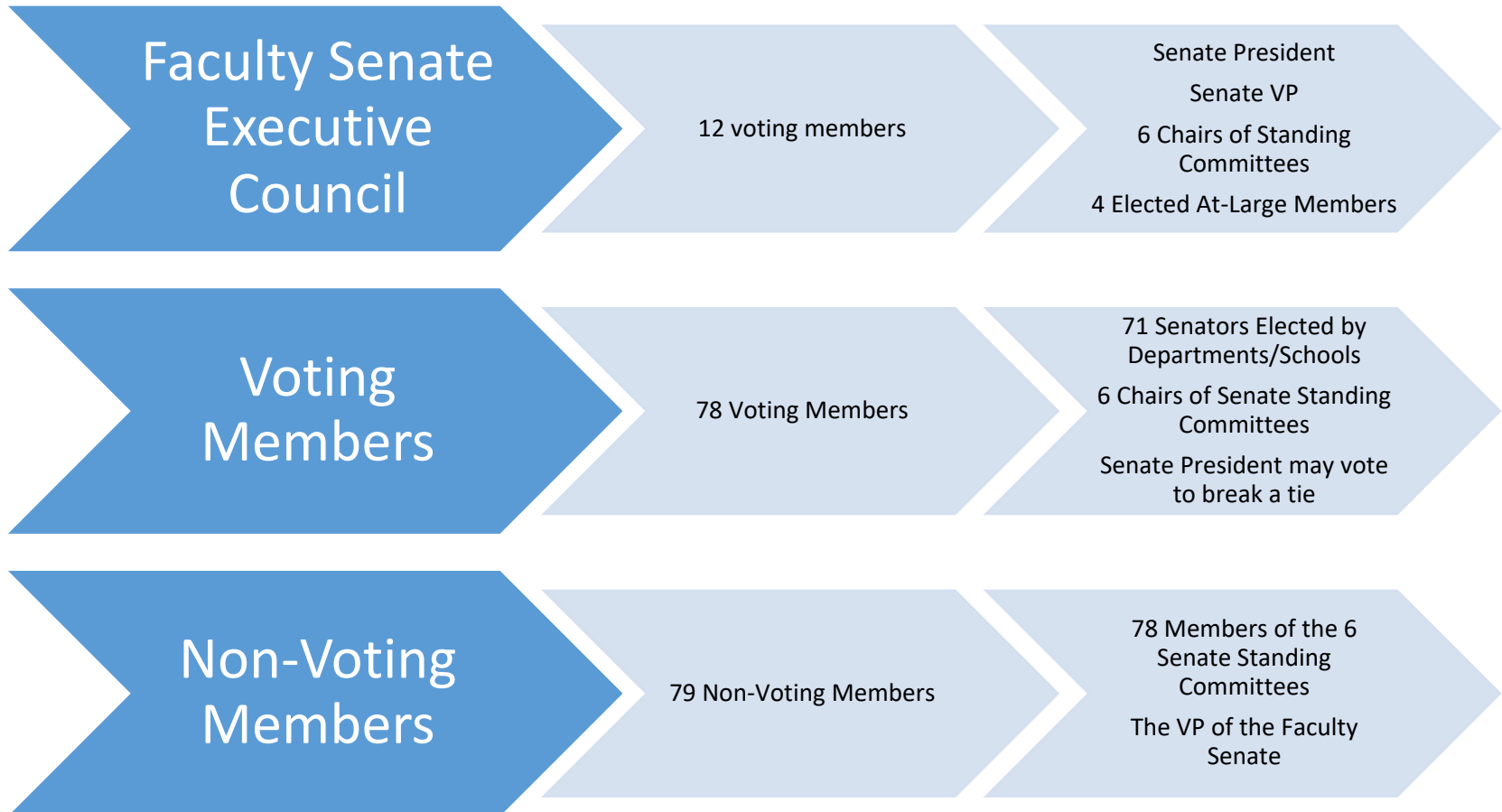
The **administration**, led by the president and the senior vice president/provost, and the **Faculty Senate** share responsibility in managing the university's academic affairs.

The **Staff Council** works with the administration on issues and policies that affect university staff.

The **Student Government Association** and **Graduate Student Senate** also play advisory roles to the administration, as well as recognizing student clubs and organizations and allocating funding.



Structure of the UVM Faculty Senate



Faculty Senate Executive Council

Chairs of the 6 Standing Committees

- Stephen Everse & Colby Kervick, Co-Chairs, Curricular Affairs Committee
- Helen Read, Chair, Educational & Research Technologies Committee
- Guillermo Rodriguez, Chair, Financial & Physical Planning Committee
- Carolyn Bonifield, Chair, Professional Standards Committee
- TBD, Chair, Research, Scholarship & The Creative Arts
- Jennifer Prue & Steve Gove, Co-Chairs, Student Affairs Committee

4 Members At-Large

- Louis deRosset (2022-2024)
- Lizzy Pope (2023-2024)
- Tony Julianelle (2023-2025)
- Kenneth Allen (2023-2025)

President & Vice President

- Thomas Borchert, President
- Evan Eyler, Vice President

UVM Faculty Senate Representation – Voting Members

Each department or comparable budgetary unit elects one senator from its eligible faculty (FTE 0.10 or greater). Units with more than 25 full-time eligible faculty members elect two senators.

- 52 Departments/Schools/Libraries are represented by one elected senator
- 18 of those units elect a second representative

Voting members of the Senate also include:

- 1 representative of the retired faculty
- 6 chairs of the Senate Standing Committees
- The Senate President is a member without vote, except to break a tie

The Senate VP is a member without vote.

Total voting members = 77



Faculty Senator Roles and Responsibilities

Prepare for Senate meetings by reviewing meeting materials posted online

Attend Senate meetings regularly, participate in discussion and voting

- Or send a Delegate

Carry information between the Senate and the unit you represent

Vote as the elected representative of your unit in all voting matters

Adhere to the UVM community values outlined in ***Our Common Ground***

Faculty Senate Committee Membership

Standing committees focus on the major continuing areas of faculty concern, including education, faculty welfare, student affairs, scholarly activity and research, finances, and physical facilities. ...

Standing committees are **authorized to act for and in the name of the Senate**. Such actions shall be reported promptly to the Executive Council and to the Senate and will stand unless the Senate, upon receiving such a report, takes jurisdiction of the matter for further consideration.

Membership:

- At least one member from each College/School/Libraries elected for a 3-year term
- Units with more than 200 full-time eligible faculty members may elect one additional member to each standing committee
- The Curricular Affairs Committee has double the number of members

Standing Committee members are **non-voting members of the Faculty Senate** unless also serving as an elected senator or chair of a standing committee

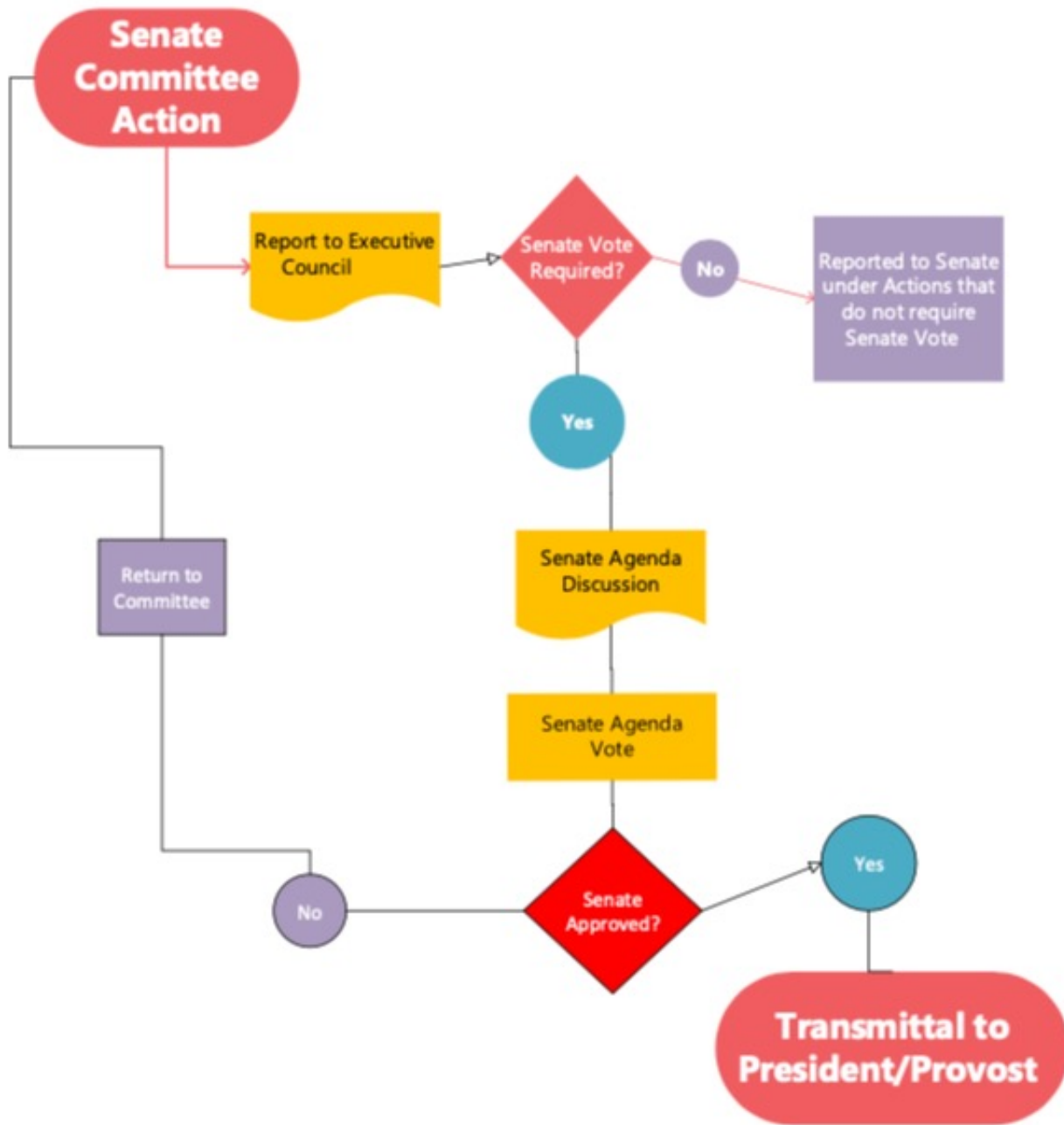


Faculty Senate Agenda

The Executive Council prepares the agenda from proposals submitted by faculty members, Faculty Senate committees, representatives of student governing bodies and administrative officials. Items presented in the form of a petition signed by ten percent of the full membership of the Faculty Senate or of five percent of the members of the eligible faculty must be included on the agenda.

The agenda of each regular meeting is posted on the Faculty Senate website, and notice is emailed to Senate membership one week one week preceding the meeting.





Quorum

For action on **warned motions** (one week notice), a quorum is the majority of the total number of voting members of the Senate.

*39 of the 77 voting members must be present

For motions that **have not been warned** in advance, a quorum is three-quarters of the total number of voting members of the Senate.

*58 of the 77 voting members must be present

A motion is approved if a quorum is present, and a majority of those voting approve the proposal.



Role of the President

From our Constitution and Bylaws, the Faculty Senate President:

-s/he shall preside at meetings of the Faculty Senate;
-serve as the Faculty's spokesperson and consultant with the administration, the Staff Council, the student body, the Board of Trustees, and the extra-university community on matters within the jurisdiction of the Senate.





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Elected Senators



Senators are the elected representatives of their academic units to the Faculty Senate. Senators are responsible for communicating with the faculty in their units about all Faculty Senate actions, as well as bringing information from their academic units to the attention of the Senate and Senate Committees. [Elected Senators for 2022-2023](#)

FACULTY SENATE FAQs →

FACULTY SENATE FEEDBACK BOX →

FACULTY SENATE
CONSTITUTION &
BYLAWS



The UVM Faculty Senate meetings are open to the public.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is Monday, August 29, 2022, 4:00-5:30 PM, in 338 Waterman Memorial Lounge

[THE AUGUST 29TH FACULTY SENATE MEETING AGENDA AND MATERIALS](#)

- [2022-2023 Senate Meeting Schedule](#)
- [2021-2022 Senate Meeting Minutes](#)

Proposal to create co-majors

Faculty Senate
August 28, 2023



The University of Vermont

Definition

A co-major is a credentialed course of study focused on a particular area/topic germane to the mission and vision of the University of Vermont. Co-majors are for matriculated undergraduate students only and are intended to allow students to pursue two majors in different degree-granting units (i.e., schools/colleges), without having to do two separate sets of degree requirements. Students must successfully complete a major in their degree-granting unit in order to graduate with a co-major in another unit. Students may not do a co-major offered by their degree-granting unit.

Co-Major as a Unique Credential

Double-Major

Undergraduate students pursue two majors within their home college.

Dual Degree

Undergraduate students pursue two majors and earn two degrees in two different colleges completing the full set of degree requirements for both colleges.

Co-Major

Undergraduate students pursue a primary major and one degree in their home college and then add a second “co-major” in another college without having to complete all the additional degree requirements for that college. The co-major is an additional credential that appears on their transcript.

Core ideas:

- Allows students to do a second major in another college/unit
- Students only do distribution/degree requirements in home unit
- Students could still pursue dual degrees if they chose that route instead
- *Precedent:* CEMS Computer Science, Math majors available to CAS students

Goals:

- Lowers barriers to cross-college work
- Encourages interdisciplinary exploration: One UVM

Background:

- **Spring 2022:** Initial idea proposed by CAS language faculty
- **Summer 2022:** Draft proposal prepared by Abby McGowan, CAS Assoc Dean
- **Fall 2022:** Initial consideration by the Curricular Affairs Committee
- **November 2023-January 2023:** Proposal explored by working group of Curricular Affairs Committee, submits formal report
- **February 2023:** Unanimous CAC vote to move forward
- **February-July 2023:** Vice-Provost J Dickinson and Faculty Senate President Tom Borchert lead working group to finalize proposal

Mechanics:

- Co-majors should be 30-40 credits, to allow students to complete them with their home unit degree and graduate in a timely manner
- Co-major curricula could be same or distinct from home unit major
- Formal proposals are needed to create a co-major, following standard curricular review process
- Proposals would have to include an MOU between partnering units
- Proposals would be invited if/once the Senate approves the credential

Timeline/process going forward:

- **August 2023 Faculty Senate meeting:** Initial discussion of credential
- **September 2023 Faculty Senate meeting:** Vote on credential proposal
 - *If proposal is approved, units would be invited to submit proposals for individual co-majors*
- **October 2023 Board of Trustees meeting:** Initial discussion of credential
- **February 2024 Board of Trustees meeting:** Vote on credential proposal
- **May 2024 Board of Trustees meeting:** Votes on proposals for individual co-majors from units

Total Solar Eclipse
Burlington, April 8, 2024

Faculty Senate
August 28, 2023



The University of Vermont

Total solar eclipse: April 8, 2024, Burlington

Starts at 2:14 pm, totality from 3:26 to 3:29 pm, full sun returns at 4:37



Last total solar eclipse in Burlington was in 1932, next will be in 2106

Eclipse planning committee represents:

- VT Space Grant Consortium/NASA EPSCoR
- UVM faculty from CEMS, CAS
- Undergraduate students (Space Club, Society for Physics Students, Society for Women in Computer Science, and lots more)
- Graduate students
- Faculty from Norwich University, St. Michael's College, Vermont State University
- Benchmark Space Systems
- Others joining soon...

Eclipse offers unique opportunity to:

- Build collective community experience
- Link experience to all areas of liberal arts inquiry
- Showcase UVM's research strengths and collaborations
- Fulfill land grant mission

Eclipse related programming: *(\$40k committed from OVPR and Provost's office)*

- Distribution, messaging around eclipse glasses, to ensure safe viewing
- Lectures on science, historical significance, mass spectatorship of eclipses
- Tours of campus/community aerospace companies/labs
- NASA Citizen Science projects
- Space research fair
- Photography demos to prepare for eclipse totality
- Community viewing stations
- Art exhibitions, performances

Proposals:

- Cancel classes on April 8, 2024
- Engage in campus-wide programming
- Extinguish all non-essential lights on campus for totality