

Rhode Island College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Minutes for

19 November 2021

Online Zoom due to Coronavirus

Present: Abbotson, S. (Chair); Basu, S.; Burke, J.; Diem, J.; Dixon, S.; Feinberg, N.; Galvez, A.; Griffin, A.; Hewins, D.; Masters, C.; Mukherjee, S.; Rawson, G.; Weinstein, T.; Zornado, J. (COGE);

Student Representatives: Card, J.

Absent: Simson, E.

Excused: McLaughlin, C. (Secretary); Borgerding, T.; Tate, H. (Provost)

Visitors: Bain, L. (CIS); Battle, S. (SWRK); Hardmon, T. (RECORDS); Kim, M. (GLOB); Nimmagadda, J. (Dean-SWRK);

1. Call to Order: 2:04 pm, 11/19/2021

2. Motion to approve minutes: 14 May 2021 (J. Zornado/C. Masters)

Action: 10 Approved with 5 abstentions (new members not at the last meeting). Minutes were passed.

3. Report of the Chair

- “W” addition to prefixes of WID courses in Records—had hoped to add for Spring courses, but for the most part have had to abandon.

Discussion: (T. Hardmon.) “W” annotation that we previously designated for writing classes has caused unexpected problems with records/transcripts. There are a few courses where the department requested the “W” to be added that are listed for Spring, but the rest will have to wait until the Fall; the courses had already been created from the previous Spring’s template, and have students already signing up, and so we could not revise the prefix without having to resubmit all those student’s names. Also, the way the system currently works the revised course prefix with the added “W” is not connecting to the original prefix which caused problems also with the AAR reports where classes were getting dropped—working with MIS this has now been solved and fixed. There remains an issue with the “Class search” feature in PeopleSoft where if you search for the course just using its number, the “W” ones will not show up. This will have to be solved through advising and outreach to both students and faculty to be aware that the “W” courses will be separate. Hope is for news to be sent out to prepare advisors and students, particularly for Fall 2022.

- New website seems still to be missing documents for some programs—so the chair has requested that everyone check to see if the departments/programs they represent for this committee (see chart below) have in place their Academic Rhode Maps, Writing in the Discipline statements, and either program goals or learning outcomes for each program. Report back next meeting any that appear to be missing.

Discussion: New website has lost some information that we previously checked on old website (program goals and WID information). Action: Everyone has been assigned programs within their constituency to check new website for: Academic Roadmap, Writing in the Discipline, Program Goals/Learning Outcomes. G. Rawson has already checked his set and they are all good. J. Diem also reported Social Work has everything.

- Chair was able to send out lists of courses not taught in the past two years or scheduled for the third to the Deans on 10/12: there were none in Nursing, 15 in FSEHD, 111 in Arts and Sciences, 4 in School of Business and 5 in Social Work (SWRK already responded with request to delete one and reasons to keep the others). Eight weeks are allowed to make decisions which takes us to Dec. 7th (the week following the technical deadline)—so these will not come to UCC until the Feb. meeting at the earliest.

Discussion: It is going to take a bit longer to determine whether to keep or delete courses from catalog that have not run yet as the lists were sent out late. Still waiting on schools, some of whom have a high number of classes to review.

- Still looking for one more student member for here and on COGE—please let the Chair know if you find anyone willing to serve on either committee.
- Other committees all still working on transfer, general education assessment/revision, hybrid and online issues.
- Continued need for 2+2 plans to use with CCRI—but needs to wait until the transfer negotiation has taken place. See the end of the minutes for where we currently stand. Chair asked everyone to double check that all the current JAA agreements and 2+2 plans are in fact correct (there have been some transfer surprises); listed below.

Discussion: We are going to hold on new 2+2 plans while we wait on transfer articulations among all involved. Action: Everyone should check: Are current listings of 2+2 and JAA still correct? G. Rawson pointed out the ones currently listed are dated 2018-2019: <https://www.ritransfers.org/jaa-ric/> —and the Philosophy JAA is correct, still checking on the History. The English one is incorrect and is an earlier iteration; a revised version was submitted, but for some reason was not used—although the date on the one there was updated (it uses old course numbers no longer listed)—they were informed of this but it has still not been updated.

4. Annual Reports

- Student Designed Majors (E. Simson. was absent)
- Transfer Minors (H. Shadoian. was unable to do this yet but will do a double report next semester)

5. Monthly Reports (No Writing Board this year)

- COGE

Discussion: (J. Zornado.) COGE has met three times this semester, 9/21, 10/23, and 11/19. The committee was delighted to unanimously approve the newly imagined MATH 139 course that clearly has a lot in it that will be very useful for the students taking it. The committee continues its discussion of Student Survey data began in September, looking at survey results, taking in feedback from faculty and students (and student frustrations); changes are up in the air for the time being until the assessment is completed, and until the contract MOU has been addressed. The Provost has formed committees to work on the issue. Meetings begin in December. Currently we are at 49 credits instead of the 40 that NECHE would like to see. COGE is currently drafting a report to the Provost of COGE activities and recommendations since the committee began its review of the general education program. While there is some positive feedback, especially in the area of writing, where a high majority of students feel well served (proof the Writing in the Discipline is working, making it a shame the Writing Board has been defunded) there are disgruntled students (though perhaps in the minority) who are fairly vocal about how they feel they have been badly served in the admissions process and view the current Gen Ed. courses as being ill-connected to their educational needs. S. Basu asked if this vocal minority was focused on any specific school, and J. Zornado was unsure, but felt the data could probably show this once the assessment was complete. J. Burke wanted to be sure the college fairly assesses the current program before making changes to be certain any revisions are addressing the actual problem (should there be one), and J. Zornado assured that would be the case.

6. New Business

ART

Motion to Bundle and Approve: 21-22-001, 21-22-002, 21-22-003, 21-22-013 (S. Basu/A. Griffin)

- 21-22-001 Approve a revision of the description of ART 331 Greek and Roman Art, to allow it to be retaken with a change in topic and to offer more diverse coverage.
- 21-22-002 Approve a revision of the title of ART 332 to become ART 332 Studies in Renaissance Art, and the description to allow it to be retaken with a change in topic and to offer more diverse coverage.
- 21-22-003 Approve a revision of the title of ART 333 to become ART 333 Studies in Baroque Art, and the description to allow it to be retaken with a change in topic and to offer more diverse coverage.
- 21-22-013 Approve revisions to the description and prerequisites of ART 493 Reading and Research in Art History to make the level of the course material clearer to students.

Discussion: G. Rawson wanted to make sure the ART 331 did not intend to be repeated for credit; it does not. S. Basu questioned about how different topics will be addressed and how repeating the course for additional credits works,

and T. Hardmon was able to explain the process. The system works okay with repeatable classes.

Action: Approved Unanimously (15)

SWRK

Motion to bundle and approve: 21-22-004 and 21-22-005 (J. Card/J. Burke)

- 21-22-004 Approve the deletion from the catalog of several SWRK Courses that will no longer be needed due to the program revision below: SWRK 338: Introduction To Fieldwork, SWRK 445: Summer Extended Fieldwork, SWRK 446: Fall Extended Fieldwork, and SWRK 447: Spring Extended Fieldwork. Other courses will need some revision of prerequisites to accommodate these changes: SWRK 327: Group and Community Practice, SWRK 426: Clinical Social Work: Theories/Models, and SWRK 464 Senior Seminar in Social Work; and these last two need other changes: SWRK 436: Field Work (Revise Description, Prerequisites And Credit Hours), and SWRK 437: Advanced Fieldwork (Revise Description And Credit Hours). Each is currently listed as 4-7 credit hours and now both will be just 4 credit hours.
- 21-22-005 Approve revisions to the BSW (and BSW to MSW) programs. The plan is to simplify the Fieldwork options so that students can follow a more direct route through the programs, they will also be able to drop the SWRK 338 requirement no longer considered necessary. BSW will now be a fixed 68 credits (rather than 68-80—which number was actually incorrect as the lower number should have been 70), and the accelerated BSW to MSW 70 credits (rather than 74-86). Graduate committee have signed off.

Discussion: S. Battle explained why and how these decisions had been made; the SWRK 338 was realized to be unnecessary and unproductive, they have piloted waiving this for students and it was fine. J. Nimmagadda asserted that this redesign does still meet all accreditation standards.

Action: Approved Unanimously (15)

ENGL

Motion to approve (A. Griffin/S. Mukherjee)

- 21-22-006 Approve the revision of title of ENGL 340 to become ENGL 340 Studies in Poetry, Drama or Prose, and update the description to reflect this. This is combining the original ENGL 340 Studies in Prose course with ENGL 342 Studies in Drama and ENGL 343 Studies in Poetry courses to provide more flexibility. The last two courses can then be deleted from the catalog.

No Discussion

Action: Approved Unanimously (15)

GLOB

Motion to approve (G. Rawson/D. Hewins)

- 21-22-007 Approve revisions to the title, description and prerequisite for GLOB 200W Global Studies and the World, to make it more accessible. It will remain a WID course and the information on this will be updated accordingly.
- 21-22-008 Under revision.

No Discussion

Action: Approved Unanimously (15)

CIS

Motion to bundle and approve: 21-22-008, 21-22-009, 21-22010, 21-22-100 (D. Hewins/J. Burke)

- 21-22-009 Approve revision to the prerequisite of CIS 252 Introduction to Information Systems, so that students might take it earlier.
- 21-22-010 Approve revisions to the prerequisite of CIS 455 Database Programming, to add CIS 301 Introduction to Computer Programming in Business to ensure students are prepared for the course.
- 21-22-011 Approve CIS program revision that reflects the program's move from School of Business to School of Arts and Science—strengthening the core with an additional course requirement (CIS 320 Information Technology: Hardware and Software Systems) and reducing the number of required business courses, as well as removing a COMM elective.

Discussion: L. Bain explained the reasons behind these changes and asserted that students have been asking for these types of additions to the program.

Action: Approved Unanimously (15)

MATH

Motion to approve (S. Basu /A. Galvez)

- 21-22-012 Approve revision to title, description and content of the Gen. Ed. course MATH 139 to become more in line with current student needs: MATH 139 Math, Data, and the Contemporary Citizen

Discussion: J. Zornado asserted how this proposal is a great model to be used for other classes and programs. Raises the issue of how do we show our students the uses of our disciplines—not that this has to be all they take away, but it should have some consideration, especially in general education courses. J. Burke explained prerequisites and what this course entails (versus other courses). Designed to have real world connections for the students taking it—including personal finances, social responsibilities, with more data driven aspects—gerrymandering, voting, fair division etc. Some discussion also of the combined MATH 139/010 course that is being piloted in the Spring.

Action: Approved Unanimously (15)

7. Any Other Business

- Future project for the committee: UCC Manual revisions?

Discussion: The UCC is charged with keeping the manual up-to-date. This year may be a good year to look at this. Right now, nobody has looked over the whole manual. We will revisit in December. Action: Each person should look over the manual for issues, problems, aged language, etc...

Motion to Adjourn: 3:21 pm (D. Hewins/S. Mukherjee)

Action: Approved Unanimously (15))

Submitted by: Traci Weinstein, UCC Member