Rhode Island College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Minutes for the meeting of 17 Nov 2023

2.00pm-4.00pm, by Zoom

**Present**: Sue Abbotson (Chair), Suchandra Basu (COGE Chair), Wendy Becker (from 2:37 and proposal #17), Todd Borgerding, John Burke, Carol Cummings (FSEHD Dean), Seth Dixon, Natasha Feinberg, Annette Griffin, Quenby Hughes (FAS Dean), Qian Liu (from 2:35 and proposal #17), Carolynn Masters (Provost/VPAA), Cara McDermott-Fasy, Soumyadeep Mukherjee, Glenn Rawson (Secretary), Kemal Saatioglu, Traci Weinstein

**Absent**: Teresa Vasco, Catherine Wobre

**Excused**: Anthony Galvez

**Guests**: Carse Ramos, Amy Topper

1. Call to order at 2:03

1. Motion to Approve Minutes form 20 Oct. 2023 (N. Feinberg/K. Saatioglu)

**Discussion**: none

**Action**: Approved, 11 in favor, none opposed, 2 abstained

1. Report of the Chair

* Wanted to welcome student representatives: Theresa Vasco and Catherine Wobre, but they were not in attendance—will send another email to see if I can find out why not.
* Hoping to hear back from Carol and Quenby the results of the course deletion query by the end of this month so I can start preparing the deletion proposal. Both said they would be able to do this.
* Have gathered information on the issue raised last meeting regarding seats on UCC and will report and discuss under any other business; proposal was included along with the minutes I sent out.
* Not many proposals this month but I have been meeting with several people over phone, on zoom and in person to go over proposal plans and there is a lot afoot. A new major in Artificial Intelligence is in the works, along some major changes in Nursing, and hopefully the Theatre concentrations. And hopefully some decision in the near future regarding Gen Ed.
* **Discussion**: nothing further than added comments above.

1. Monthly Reports

* COGE report: Suchandra Basu, Chair of COGE, reported work on digital forms for Distribution categories to better support matters of learning outcomes and their assessment in proposed courses. RIC needs to have a stronger assessment process. No course proposals have yet been considered this year. Proposals that submit full syllabi for the proposed courses, though that has not previously been required, have been more successful, so the committee is considering requiring a full sample syllabus with each proposal and providing a template for that. Learning outcomes will be essential, and syllabi should include these and show clearly to students how they will be assessed and met.
* **Discussion**: There was discussion of concerns about requiring sample syllabi when a topical outline and descriptions of assessing learning outcomes are already required; and when different teachers will be teaching somewhat different sections of the same course. VPAA Carolynn Masters has been working with RIC/AFT and FCTL on revisions to minimum requirements for course syllabi, which will include statements of learning outcomes and their assessments, together with other NECHE expectations such as DEI and academic integrity; she indicated that all sections of the same course should have the same learning outcomes, and each syllabus should specify the particular ways in which a particular teacher will assess them. However, it is possible that outcomes can be achievable in different ways and assessed also using different tools, even within the same course.

1. New Business

* **Motion to Approve #016** (J. Burke/S. Basu)
* 23-24-016 Approve revisions to the admission requirements for the School of Education (excepting the Youth Development program). To better serve students there is a request to have this proposal made effective for Spring 2024.
* **Discussion**: FSEHD Dean Carol Cummings explained that this proposal is intended to keep our admissions requirements competitive with other ed prep institutions in RI, still meets RIDE requirements, and reduces burdens of credit creep.
* **Action**: Unanimously approved
* **Motion to Approve #017 through #019** (A. Griffin/S. Dixon)
* 23-24-017 Approve the creation of a new course SOC 313 Sociology of Death and Dying for use in the Gerontology/Aging Studies and Sociology major and minor programs. This proposal includes the request to add to the Sociology major and minor, to two of the Health Sciences programs: Health Sciences and Human Services, to Health Care Administration under the former Gerontology category to also be renamed Aging Studies in line with the changes being made to the Gerontology minor/CUS titles below, and to the major and minor Community Programs and Health Promotion. No totals will be affected.
* 23-24-018 Approve the retitling of the Gerontology minor and CUS to become Aging Studies, and to revise both programs to include the new SOC 313 Sociology of Death and Dying course as an elective.
* 23-24-019 Approve a small revision to the prefix of GRTL 314 to become AGNG 314 to align with new program title and since this is cross listed with NURS 314 that also needs a slight revision to the description. Health Sciences, Heath Care Administration and Community and Public Health Promotion also use GRTL 314 as an elective so will be informed of the change.
* **Discussion**: Carse Ramos reports that the name changes address the discipline's trend from "gerontology" to "aging." The new course fills a gap in the offerings in Sociology and Justice Studies as well as Gerontology/Aging Studies; students have expressed interest for some time.
* **Action**: Unanimously approved

1. Any Other Business

* **Motion to Revise UCC Manual Article 1.2B** (K. Saatioglu/C. Cummings)
* Given the following information it does seem that the composition of the schools has changed since the make-up of the UCC was formed, so can I have a motion (followed by discussion) to make an adjustment to have SOB and FSEHD have two seats each on the committee, for a better balance, beginning from Fall 2024, and update the UCC Manual to reflect this (a by-law change that will also need to go to Council for final approval)

Current stats.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School | Seats on UCC | #major programs (not counting concs.) | # sections  Fall ‘23  (no FYS incl.s) | 2022 enrollment | Completions 2018-2021 | 2023 May graduation  (NURS splits its grad.) |
| FAS | 8 | 35 (Plus most of Gen Ed.) | 842 | 1889 | 2012 | 468 |
| FSEHD | 3 | 12 | 141 | 664 | 493 | 82 |
| SOB | 1 | 8 | 126 | 932 | 990 | 138 |
| NURS | 1 | 3 | 125 | 825 | 938 | 69 |
| SWRK | 1 | 1 | 34 | 225 | 231 | 68 |

**Discussion:** UCC Chair Sue Abbotson noted that FSEHD Dean Carol Cummings has already expressed agreement with this proposal. Some members considered the future need to redistribute other membership groupings but did not seek revisions to those at this time, that discussion will continue next meeting once the chair has provided some more statistics on which a judgement can be made. Due to this, this by-law amendment, if approved will not be forwarded to Council until the discussion over the FAS distribution has been concluded. There was also requested a friendly amendment to the line that noted two Deans or Associate Deans appointed by the Provost/VPAA, to change to the Dean (or Associate Dean) of FAS to be made a *de facto* member, with only the second Dean being appointed by the Provost/VPAA. This was suggested as reasonable given that the predominant number of courses offered in the Gen Ed. program are administered through FAS.

**Action:** The following revision to Article 1.2B was unanimously approved:

The Committee shall consist of 20 members:

1. Two FAS faculty members from Art; Communication; and Music, Theater and Dance.

2. Two FAS faculty members from English, History, Modern Languages and Philosophy.

3. Two FAS faculty members from Anthropology, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

4. Two FAS faculty members from Biology, Mathematical Sciences, and Physical Science.

5. Two faculty members from the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development.

6. Two faculty members from the School of Business.

7. One faculty member from the School of Nursing.

8. One faculty member from the School of Social Work.

9. The Chair of COGE, *ex officio*.

10. Two undergraduate students appointed annually as directed by Student Parliament.

11. The Provost/Vice President, *ex-officio* and non-voting.

12. The Dean or Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

13. One member appointed from among academic Deans and Associate Deans from Feinstein School of Education and Human Development, School of Business, School of Nursing, or School of Social Work by the Provost/Vice President.

***Motion to adjourn*** *at 2:58pm (C. Masters/Q. Hughes)*

***Action****: Unanimously approved*

*Respectfully submitted by Glenn Rawson*