Rhode Island College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Minutes for the meeting of 21 October 2022

2:00pm–4.00pm, by zoom

***Present****: S. Abbotson (Chair), S. Basu, W. Becker, T. Borgerding, M. Cordeiro (student), N. Feinberg, A. Griffin, Q. Liu, C. Masters, G. Rawson (Secretary), E. Simson, H. Tate (Provost/VPAA), T. Weinstein, J. Zornado (COGE)*

***Absent****: S. Dixon, J. Burke, I. Santoro*

***Excused****: A. Galvez, C. McDermott-Fasy, S. Mukherjee*

***Guests****: A. Barlow, V. Endress, T. Schmeling, Q. Hughes, V. Bohlinger*

1. Call to order

1. Minutes from last meetings on 13 May already approved via email and put on the website.
2. Report of the Chair

* Worked hard over the summer to get all the Academic Rhode Maps updated and in place on the website (the latter took a lot of time), should be there now—if you see any missing, let me know. Also helped Lexi with catalog updates and the “online” version is there, but still having trouble creating the fixed .PDF version—exporting seems to cause glitches that the software company acknowledge and are still working to fix—may need to be done manually. Lexi is working on this as we do need a fixed copy. We do have 2022-2023 Word files for the catalog on the Forms and Information page but there are some errors in these so be aware (mostly just formatting, but also bits missing).
* I sent out the request to Deans to examine courses not offered in the past two years and not scheduled for this year to see what needs to be deleted. This year there was nothing listed for Nursing, and just two for Social Work that have been resolved as still needed. FSEHD got back to me on three of the five, waiting on two more; the FAS is looking at 130 and School of Business at seven. They have until end of November to send me decisions.
* There is a lot of buzz about a variety of curricula related projects afoot:
* The President announced he had cut 28 programs, but UCC/Graduate Committee are unaware of any proposals to enact this, nor do any departments seem to know what has been cut. Enquiries have been made.

**Discussion:** *Chair has discussed this with President, who says he intended that 28 programs are being considered for cutting. There can be no cuts without having proposals approved by UCC. Four programs to be deleted are being submitting on proposals for this session.*

* Apparently, the School of Business was given permission to pilot its own Gen Ed., but nothing has been submitted—and it seems like a bad idea given the size of the college and the current status of Gen. Ed review. So, a complaint is being registered from COGE and UCC, along with a reminder that NECHE stipulates 40 credits for a four-year degree college (so cannot simply accept a CCRI 20-credit Gen Ed. program and say that is sufficient).

**Discussion:** *Chair has discussed this with SOB Dean, who says she was only reporting complaints from CCRI. Any pilots for general education alternatives would have to go through COGE and UCC. After discussion of some other kinds of “pilots” like courses and admissions arrangements, FAS Dean adds that there is no provision for “piloting” a general education program, which was why implementing an alternative general education curriculum for the new Bachelor of Professional Studies program was so complicated. Difficulties that a school-specific general education program would cause for students switching majors across schools were also cited.*

* CoOL is looking into approving online courses and programs and so UCC and Graduate Committees have reached out to see how we can assist in this process as any curriculum changes should be approved through these bodies. Executive Council have said they will look into CoOL’s mandate as a Council Committee and ensure we are kept in the loop. Chair of CoOL is arranging a meeting to discuss the current curriculum proposal forms with an eye to what needs to be included of the proposal addresses online courses or programs.

1. Annual Reports:

* Student Designed Majors

*FAS Dean reported that there were just two students graduating with SDMs last year, both SSW students who could not complete that curriculum and made arrangements for graduating with an SDM in “Social Services.” OPC requires that if 5 students graduate with the same SDM in 5 years, we must apply to OPC to create a regular major.*

***Discussion****: Typically, an SDM is arranged when a student discovers in their final year that they can’t complete the last, most demanding requirements, or that they aren’t after all cut out for the fieldwork (e.g. in SSW or FSEHD) and would otherwise have to start a whole new major program in another school order to graduate.*

* Transfer Minors (2021-2022)

*H. Tate reported for H. Shadoian, VP for Undergraduate Affairs. RIC’s transfer minor policy, first approved in 2019, is the first in the nation. [There are seven of these for CCRI and 5 for BCC listed on our website.] But staffing changes and technical PeopleSoft issues have made it difficult to keep track of which transfer students have the appropriate combinations of courses for these minors. We’re working on both types of issues and expect a more robust report for 2022-23.*

1. Monthly Reports

* COGE report

*COGE Chair Joe Zornado reported three new members of COGE this year: R. Kraus for FSEHD and J. Fearon-Lynch for Nursing, together with J. Dagle as FAS Associate Dean, who was just recently added as a voting member (due to their focus on Gen Ed. transfer descisions). With much overlap between memberships of COGE and the Gen Ed Task Force, COGE administers the current program and communicates with faculty, especially about assessment, while the Task Force is deliberating about possible revisions to General Education. Joe reports that some have raised questions about a potential conflict of interest in his chairing COGE while serving as President's Faculty Fellow; that he is aware of the complications, and has spoken about it with COGE and RIC/AFT President about it; and that so he far finds that the President's concerns align well with those of COGE and the Task Force. The General Education Task Force is making progress and will provide another update this semester.*

***Discussion****: There are overlapping aspects of coordinating COGE administration of the current General Education program and Task Force deliberation about possible revisions, which fact makes things seem in flux and on hold. Joe highlighted his role, as presidential faculty fellow together with Chair of COGE and Co-chair of the Task Force, in informing President Warner of faculty perspectives on his initiatives. This was instrumental in stopping the attempt to pilot an SOB-specific general education program above while the Task Force does its work.*

1. New Business

***Motion to Bundle and approve ##001 and 002*** *(S. Basu/N. Feinberg)*

* 22-23-001 Approve the revision of the Philosophy BA to add a course PHIL 200 and delete PHIL 460 as requirements, create options in the logic, History and Ethics categories that make the program more flexible and reduce the total credits to 30, and change when a selection of PHIL courses will be offered.
* 22-23-002 Approve a proposal to delete three Philosophy B.A. Concentrations in Ethics and Society, History of Philosophy and Knowledge and Reality.

***Discussion****: Together, these streamline the Philosophy BA and make the remaining track more flexible by adding options to some requirements, reducing some others, and allowing more electives and transfer credits. While the Seminar will no longer be required in the major, it could still be offered, and students will still have the seminar-type experience in various 300-level course that will still be required.*

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

***Motion to approve #003*** *(A. Griffin/S. Basu)*

* 22-23-003 Approve a proposal to delete the CUS in Career and College Attainment and the five DIS courses that were created to be used for this: DIS 100 Self-Advocacy and Beyond; DIS 101 Introduction to Vocational Exploration; DIS 102 Campus Vocational Experience I; DIS 201 Campus/Community Vocational Experience II; and DIS 202 Community Vocational Internship.

***Discussion****: This program has already in practice been discontinued: the courses to be deleted here are no longer taught, and there are no students currently in the program.*

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

1. Any Other Business: ***No other business introduced.***

***Motion to adjourn*** *(J. Zornado/N. Feinberg)*

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