

Annual Report on the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee to Council

25 April 2023

Submitted by the chair Susan Abbotson

1. Membership (names, terms, department, constituency):

Susan Abbotson (2022-24) English, Humanities
Glenn Rawson (2021-23) Philosophy, Humanities
Anthony Galvez (2021-23) Communication, Arts
Todd Borgerding (2022-24) Music, Theatre, Dance, Arts
Seth Dixon (2022-24) Political Science, Social Sciences
Traci Weinstein (2021-23) Psychology, Social Sciences
Qian Liu (2022-2024) Computer Science, Science
John Burke (2021-23) Mathematics and Computer Science, Science
Suchandra Basu (2021-23) Economics and Finance, Business
Cara McDermott-Fasy (2022-24) Special Education, Education
Soumyndee Mukherjee (2021-23) Health and Physical Education, Education
Natasha Feinberg (2021-23) Elementary Education, Education
Annette Griffin (2022-24) Nursing
Wendy Becker (2022-24) Social Work
Joe Zornado as Chair of COGE
Earl Simpson as Dean FAS
Carolynn Masters as Dean of Nursing (2022)
Marianne Raimondo as Dean of School of Business (2023)
Helen Tate as Provost (non-voting; 2022)
Carolynn Masters as Provost (non-voting; 2023)
Isabella Santoro and Melissa Cordeira as undergraduate students (2022-23).

A call was put out to all relevant faculty by the Elections Committee for membership for next year for each expiring seat, which led to one seat (Humanities) needing to go to an election but all seats should be decided before the May meeting so new members will be there to vote for next year's chair and Executive Committee. Deans and students have yet to be decided.

Executive UCC 2022-2023:

Susan Abbotson (Chair)
Glenn Rawson (Secretary)
Helen Tate as Provost (2022)
Carolynn Masters as Provost (2023)
John Burke
Joe Zornado

Executive for 2022-2023 will be voted up at the May 12th UCC meeting.

2. Meeting dates of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee:

21 Oct. 2022, 16 Dec. 2022, 17 Feb. 2023, 17 March 2023, 21 April 2023, 12 May 2023.

Meeting dates of the Executive Committee of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee:

7 Oct. 2022, 8 Dec. 2022, 10 Feb. 2023, 3 March 2023, 7 April 2023, 5 May 2023.

3. and 4. Summary of Committee Activities:

Up to April of this year the UCC has fostered, considered, and approved 114 proposals that are all detailed on the UCC website [<https://www.ric.edu/department-directory/undergraduate-curriculum-committee/undergraduate-curriculum-committee-documents>]; April proposals have been approved by UCC but are awaiting approval from Provost and President. The expectation for the May meeting, based on enquiries about upcoming proposals and what has already been submitted, is that it will be the largest amount of proposals in one month for the year and will add considerably to this overall number. Of the ones so far approved there are a variety of course revisions to titles and descriptions to make these clearer, and in some cases approach the topic with more diversity and add more current topics/approaches, as well as numerous changes to prerequisites to allow for great flexibility and changing when courses are to be offered to improve student movement through programs. We also deleted 74 courses that have not been offered in the past three years and have had proposals to delete 12 programs (CUS Career and College Attainment, three Philosophy concentrations, Geography BA, Chemistry BA and BS with concentrations in Environmental Chemistry, Communication's Journalism and PR and Advertising concentrations and the Secondary Ed. Biology, Chemistry and Physics programs). Several programs, including Political Science, INGOs, English, Computer Science, Communication, Community and Public Health Promotion, Health Science, Physics, Psychology, and Behavioral Health Science have undergone revisions to add more diversity of courses and in most cases decrease the total credit count of the programs (or at the minimum keep these the same). Two new CUS have been created in Geographical Information Systems and Conflict and Crisis Communication, as well as a new BPS in Strategic Communication and a BS in Biotechnology. Several more are expected to be submitted for the May meeting including a new Cybersecurity major and minor, A Sports Management major and CUS, revisions to the Math and Data Science majors and several related minors, revisions to the Social Work major, revisions to the Art History major, another new BPS concentration from the School of Education, a Social Science and Health minor, and several other course revisions, but the deadline for submission for the May meeting has not yet passed.

Agendas and Minutes of all full UCC meeting are also available on the website [<https://www.ric.edu/department-directory/undergraduate-curriculum-committee/undergraduate-curriculum-committee-minutes-and-agendas>], and aside from discussing the above proposals the committee has also worked on a number of other assignments that are noted there in more detail.

All undergraduate Academic Rhode Maps were updated ready for Fall 2022 by the Chair, who also assisted the Provost's office with updating the 2022-23 catalog. Throughout the year the Chair has also been working with CoOL to update the UCC Proposal form to accommodate

submission for online options for courses and programs and hopes to have this in place in the Fall. We have updated parts of the UCC Manual that had fallen out of date in terms of both language and policy—removing the inclusion of the Chair of UCC as ex officio on Mission and Goals, reducing the required GPA for student designed majors to be in line with regular college requirements, and adding a clear explanation of the UCC voting process (when members abstain during a vote of UCC, the majority shall be determined among the non-abstaining members rather than the number of members present—Roberts rules allow for either option, but it was felt that an abstention is just that and should not be able to “count” as a “no” vote).

The Chair of UCC in consultation with the Chair of COGE prepared a proposal to request the removal of the secondary language requirement in the General Education program as creating a barrier to students and raising the Gen Ed. program total to way above the maximum of 40 credits, and presented this to COGE, but it met decided opposition from the committee and others present and was withdrawn. We shall wait for the COGE Task Force recommendations. The Executive UCC also created proposal to form an Executive UCC for COGE for next year to assist the future chair in preparing proposals for the committee in light of the likelihood there will be a great deal of work submitted; we were unable to vote on this as members had to leave the April meeting early and we no longer had a quorum, but it will be reintroduced at the May meeting. We have also been working on updating the UCC proposal form to better accommodate submissions regarding online courses and programs and hope to have that completed ready for the Fall.

Annual reports from those currently tasked to report to UCC, which include Student Designed Majors (last presented in Oct. for the 2021-22 academic year) and expected in May for the 2022-2023 academic year: College Honors, Writing Board and Committee on General Education (COGE) continue to be given and placed on the UCC website when received. We were unable to get a full report on Transfer Minors last year due to staffing changes and PeopleSoft issues that have made the tracking of these problematic but hope to see one this May. [<https://www.ric.edu/department-directory/undergraduate-curriculum-committee/curriculum-committee-reports>].

General Education is still under review. While COGE has been looking at updating the current outcomes and checking some new and revised courses for the current program, a General Education Task Force has been collecting data and feedback from students and faculty to make recommendations moving forward—their full report and recommendations are expected in the Fall.

5. Recommendations for next year’s committee

We would like the UCC to tackle the issue of courses in the catalog that are marked as being offered “alternate years” as that is meaningless for a student trying to plan ahead. This needs to be tied to something more time-bound, possibly: “Offered alternate academic years beginning Fall” or “Offered alternate academic years beginning Spring.” Or have the department commit to the Spring (odd years) type format. We also would like all courses in the catalog to be labeled as to the modality in which they are offered—we wanted to do that this year but were asked to wait by CoOL who were working on new definitions of these modalities but were unable to complete them in time to be able to accomplish this. We also plan to encourage departments to keep an eye

on their JAA agreements, creating more where possible, as well as update and create many more 2+2 plans that can be submitted to CCRI and Bridgewater in future (these requests have been put on hold until the RIC General Education program has been decided upon so as to not create unnecessary work, though the recent transfer meeting did allow for some progress).

6. Self-evaluation

We do a great job (though very time-consuming, especially for the chair).