Rhode Island College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Minutes for the meeting of 15 Dec 2023

2.00pm-4.00pm, by Zoom

**Present**: Sue Abbotson (Chair), Suchandra Basu (COGE Chair), Wendy Becker, Todd Borgerding (from 2:08), John Burke, Carol Cummings (FSEHD Dean), Seth Dixon, Natasha Feinberg, Anthony Galvez, Annette Griffin, Qian Liu, Cara McDermott-Fasy (from 2:06), Soumyadeep Mukherjee, Glenn Rawson (Secretary), Kemal Saatioglu, Traci Weinstein

**Absent**: Catherine Nobre (student)

**Excused**: Quenby Hughes (FAS Dean), Carolynn Masters (Provost/VPAA),

**Guests**: Carse Ramos, Holly Shadoian

1. Call to order at 2:02

1. Motion to Approve Minutes from 17 Nov. 2023

***Discussion****: none*

***Action****: Approved: 12 in favor, none opposed, 2 abstained (2 had not yet arrived)*

1. Report of the Chair

* I e-mailed our two student reps again and heard back from Teresa, who decided she couldn’t take this on just now. Not heard back from Catherine after several emails from both the curriculum and sabbotson emails. Julie Urda and Val Endress are trying to find alternatives—they put a call out on the faculty FaceBook for suggestions, but nothing yet. Holly suggested in the chat she might have a name of someone—will follow up.
* This is the first time we have been able to stay on the prescribed timeline for deletions—so thanks to everyone who helped make that happen—there has been some intense emailing going on to fix all the elements that were thrown out of whack by some of the deleted courses: but we are cleaning up 36 courses from the catalog that have not been taught in recent years.
* ***Discussion****: None.*

1. Monthly Reports

* COGE report: *COGE Chair Suchandra Basu reported that no proposals were submitted this month and the committee did not hold its monthly meeting. They are working on digital proposal forms with a template for sample syllabi, for which they have been and will continue to be conferring with the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Committee on Academic Policies and Procedures. Going back to last month’s discussion John Burke felt that the idea of COGE asking proposers to supply a syllabus rather than an outline for proposed courses would not be as burdensome as initially considered, and would, in fact, be useful.*

1. New Business

* ***Motion to Approve #020*** *(T. Weinstein/K. Saatioglu)*
* 23-24-020 Would like to revise of the prerequisite of SOC 362W Theories of Crime Seminar to become the more flexible: “Any 200-level social science course in ANTH, POL, PSYC or SOC, or consent of department chair.”
* ***Discussion****: After Carse Ramos explained the reason for the revision there were no questions/comments.*
* ***Action****: Unanimously approved*
* ***Motion to Approve #021*** *(T. Weinstein/A. Griffin)*
* 23-24-021 Would like to revise two of the BPS concentrations, Social Services and Organizational Leadership to allow for a choice of COMM 208 Public Presentations or COMM 333 Intercultural Communication as one of the requirements, rather than just COMM 333, to allow for greater flexibility in scheduling, transfer, and opportunities for the students. They also request a Spring 2024 effective date.
* ***Discussion****: After Holly Shadoian explained the reason for the revision there were no questions/comments.*
* ***Action****: Unanimously approved*
* 23-24-022 through 028 are under revision and we hope to see them back in the Spring.
* ***Motion to Approve #029*** *(N. Feinberg/W. Becker)*
* 23-24-029 Would like the revise the prerequisite of HPE 307 Introduction to Epidemiology to become “Satisfaction of the college’s mathematics milestone” to make it more accessible and given the nature of the course, a better preparation. Also changing when offered to annually, but with the addition of “Summer as needed as a hybrid/online course.”
* ***Discussion****: Proposer Soumyadeep Muhkerjee explained why the mathematics milestone is the appropriate prerequisite for this course. John Burke proposed the friendly amendment for rephrasing "a basic understanding of Math" as "an understanding of fundamental mathematics" in Section A.5. This was the first form that has been submitted that included all three of the course modality options, and it seems to be working.*
* ***Action****: Unanimously approved as amended*
* ***Motion to Approve #030*** *(C. Cummings/K. Saatioglu)*
* 23-24-030 The following courses are to be deleted as no longer needed: ANTH 330 Language Endangerment and Linguistic Revitalization; ARTE 303 Introduction to Art Education; ARTE 340 Methods and Materials in Art Education; ARTE 421 Art in the Elementary School; COMM 253 Multimedia and Journalism II; COMM 303 Advanced Reporting and Interview; COMM 344 Broadcast Journalism; COMM 356 Group Decision Making; CURR 410 Teaching World Languages in Elementary Education; DANC 302 Musical Resources for Dancing; DANC 322 Repertory Performance; DANC 324 Improvisation/Performance; ECED 301 Developmental Approaches to Teaching and Learning; ECED 419 Early Care and Education, Birth to Three Years; ECED 420 Mathematics, Prekindergarten through Second Grade; ECED 425 Developmental Literacy and the Language Arts II; ECED 429 Early Childhood Social Studies and Science; ENGL 262 Women, Crime and Representation; FILM 378 Film Production: 3D Animation; FILM 379 Digital Audio Production; FYW 010 College Writing Strategies; FREN 416 Studies in the 17th century; GLOB 356 The Atlantic World; HPE 404 School Health and Physical Education Leadership; HIST 263 Christianity; HIST 265 Post-1945 Conflicts in Africa and Globally; HIST 317 Politics and Society; ITAL 330 Modern Italy; ITAL 404 Studies in Italian Cinema; MEDI 202 Introduction to Medical Imaging; MLED 310 Teaching Early Adolescents; MLED 320 Middle School Organization and Integrated Curriculum; MLED 340 Differentiated Elements in Middle School; PHIL 357 Hegel, Nietzsche and Nineteenth Century Philosophy; PHIL 358 Existentialism and Phenom Philosophy; PHIL 359 Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein. References to both ANTH 167 Music Cultures of Non-Western and PORT 301 Portuguese Literature and Culture I, which were previously deleted still appear in the catalog, the first as across-listing and the second as a prerequisite, and these also need to be deleted. Three of these deletions are Connections courses, and the PHIL deletions necessitate the additional deletion of the History of Philosophical Thought minor in the Philosophy department. These deletions also affect some other courses that need to have their prerequisites or descriptions revised: ARTE 404 Secondary Practicum in Art Education; MLAN 400 Applied Linguistics; POL 317 Politics and Society; PORT 420W Applied Linguistics; PORT 460W Seminar in Portuguese; and SOC 317 Politics and Society. In addition, the deletions also affect some programs that will need to be revised to accommodate: the RITE program requirements, Dance Performance major and minor electives, Film Studies major and minor electives, INGOs minor electives, Liberal Studies electives, the older version of the Middle School Certification should be deleted, Health Education MEd. electives, Secondary Education Social Science electives and Wellness and Exercise Science electives. No credits counts will be affected.
* ***Discussion****: Todd Borgerding asked about how to ensure that deletions are reflected as needed in the RIC/AFT Agreement, where certain courses with special workload arrangements are specifically mentioned; it was agreed that the best and easiest way would just be for the administration and the union to consult the current Catalog when the Agreement is being renegotiated. Asked how to restore a course that has been deleted, proposer and UCC Chair Sue Abbotson explained that there is no special procedure for that; the course would be proposed again with the usual form and process but using a new Catalog number if fewer than five years had passed since the deletion. There was also discussion of technical complications concerning the persistence of long-deleted courses in some places on PeopleSoft, which can be confusing and time consuming tryong to work out what they are. Records does not like to delete courses that may still be on older student’s transcripts, but the Chair will consult with Records to see if there is anything that can be done to improve the situation.*
* ***Action****: Unanimously approved*

1. Any Other Business

* Currently FAS seats on UCC are divided into four groups that are somewhat erratically titled (and include the departments listed); does this look equitable, or do we need to make any changes?

Art: Art; Communication; Music, Theatre, and Dance

Humanities: English; History; Modern Languages; Philosophy

Social Science: Anthropology; Political Science, Psychology, Sociology

Science: Biology; Mathematical Sciences; Physical Science

Current stats.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dept. | ID | # full time faculty | #major progs. (incl concs.) | #section  Fall ‘23  (no FYS | Completions 2018-2021 | F2022 Major  Enrollment(s) |
| Art | Art | 15 | 4 | 120 | 145 | 154 |
| Communication | Art | 9/10 | 3 | 28 | 176 | 110 |
| Music, Dance and Theatre | Art | 13 | 11 | 188 | 118 | 90 |
| English FILM/AFRI/FYW | Hum | 18 | 5 | 82 | 167 | 97 |
| History  GLOB/ENST/  GEND | Hum | 14 | 4 | 46 | -enst  81 | 45 |
| Mod. Lang | Hum | 3 | 5 | 34 | 12 | 19 |
| Philosophy | Hum | 3 | 1 | 13 | 15 | 10 |
| Anthro | SS | 6 | 1 | 13 | +enst  50 | 40 |
| Poli Sci  GEOG/PBAD | SS | 9/11 | 3 | 31 | 128 | 63 |
| Psychology  BehavHS | SS | 13 | 2 | 40 | 458 | 374 |
| Sociology  JSTD/AGNG | SS | 10 | 2 | 30 | 307 | 197 |
| Biology  MEDI/HSCI | SCI | 13 | 13 | 174 | 327 | 556 |
| Math  DATA | SCI | 12/13 | 2 | 47 | +csci  126 | 24 |
| Physical  CHEM/PSCI/PHYS | SCI | 12 | 4 | 50 | 33 | 34 |

Notes:

* Art and Music do not include #s for Art Ed. or Music Ed. Also, no other Secondary Ed. disciplines, just straight majors.
* Where there is a split number under #full time category, the higher number includes emeriti faculty listed on the website under the relevant department.
* CSIS enrollments are not reflected in MATH totals as they were moved to SOB.
* This is a head count, so Lexi did not include duplicate students for double majors within the same defined department. (IE: A student majoring in both Studio Art and Art History would only be counted once.) However, if someone was double majoring in Psych and Justice Studies, they would be counted for each.
* ***Discussion****: UCC Chair Sue Abbotson reminded us that at our November meeting, FAS Dean Quenby Hughes wondered about the fairness of the distribution of UCC seats within FAS and the appropriateness of the departments grouped together under the heading of "Art." Anthony Galvez, professor of Communication, expressed that he is satisfied with that grouping, as Communication contains a multiplicity of approaches that could fit in several categories. It was pointed out that the spread of faculty in these four divisions is consistent as all were 38/39 members from which two each would be elected for the UCC. As there were no objections to the distributions according to the figures reported here, the proposal to revise the UCC membership will be forwarded exactly as approved at the November meeting to the Council to approve early Spring, hopefully in time for next year’s elections.*
* ***Motion to adjourn*** *at 2:43pm (J. Burke/K. Saatioglu)*
* ***Action****: Unanimously approved*
* *Respectfully submitted by Glenn Rawson*