Rhode Island College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Minutes for the meeting of 16 February 2024

2.00pm-4.00pm, by Zoom

**Present**: Sue Abbotson (Chair), Suchandra Basu, Wendy Becker, Todd Borgerding, John Burke, Seth Dixon, Anthony Galvez, Quenby Hughes, Qian Liu, Carolynn Masters, Cara McDermott-Fasy, Soumyadeep Mukherjee, Catherine Nobre, Glenn Rawson, Kemal Saatioglu, Traci Weinstein

**Absent**: Carol Cummings, Annette Griffin

**Excused**: Natasha Feinberg

**Guests**: Leslie Sevey

1. Call to order at 2:03

1. Approve Minutes 15 Dec. 2023

***Discussion****: none*

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

1. Report of the Chair

* Ongoing student members: We found Cat! Welcome to Catherine Nobre to the committee for the remainder of this year. I noticed that Council had a new name listed on their council committees list, but it turns out this was not an actual student, so Rebeka deleted it. Holly’s suggestion for a student member was not available for Friday meetings. Still looking but the year is almost done.
* I took the UCC membership changes to Council at their last meeting and they were approved (with a couple of minor editorial changes) to move forward to a deciding vote at the March meeting, so they can hopefully go into effect for the upcoming elections (usually held in April).
* Chair of the Writing Board shared his concerns over noting several WID courses this semester were being given overly high caps (some up to 30); where the UCC recommendation is for “up to 20.” Provost will let Deans and Chairs know that they can cap their WID courses at the recommended level. As Chair of the Writing Board Mike Michaud also plans to reach out to chairs on this issue.

1. Monthly Reports

* COGE report. *COGE Chair Suchandra Basu reported that today's monthly COGE meeting was given over to the Provost's presentation and discussion of proposed changes to General Education; and that COGE has one proposal submitted and others in progress (mostly in Natural Sciences), but before they consider approving them they would like to know more about the final shape of those prospective changes to start in fall. COGE will also need to beworking on candidates for expiring seats for the coming year—these need to be okayed by the Provost and the Chair of UCC. It was noted that Jennifer Fearon-Lynch (Nursing rep.) has not been able to attend meetings so we should be looking for someone different for that seat for next year. There has also been a request from Eliani Basile to be considered as the next Modern Languages representative on the committee.*
* ***Discussion****: Todd Borgerding asked about the process of approval for changes to the General Education curriculum. Provost/VPAA Carolynn Masters replied that it would have to go through COGE, UCC, and then Council. She added that any corresponding changes to COGE membership would have to go through UCC and Council as well, since that would require a change in bylaws. Provost and COGE Chair agreed that the proposals recently submitted or known to be in progress, which seek implementation in fall 2024, could probably be accommodated with some transition year in 2024-25 to phase in Gen Ed changes. Todd Borgerding also asked about how to deal with potential proposals for new Gen Ed categories from departments outside the typical disciplinary expectations (e.g., could English offer a course that satisfies an Arts category because of music content? NB. English does have a course in the Arts category already—ENGL 113 Approaches to Drama, that takes a dramaturgical approach to the genre and focuses on production over text). Provost/VPAA responded that we do need provisions requiring disciplinary expertise together with collaboration to make it happen where it's reasonable, such as a requirement that courses taught by faculty outside (e.g.) Humanities departments would have to be cross-listed in the Catalog with a course in a Humanities department, thus requiring the approval of that department and FAS.*

1. New Business

* ***Motion to Approve #022 through #026*** *(Mukherjee/Becker)*
* 23-24-022 Approval to revise ECED 201: Introduction to Early Childhood Education to include materials from ECED 290 A Cross Disciplinary Approach to ECED which can then be deleted as there are no current students who will need it. There is unnecessary overlap between 290 and 201 and this revision will help reduce program credits. The ECED 201 course will remain at 3 credits. Transfer agreement with CCRI for ECED 290 and HMNS 1010 needs to be changed to ECED 201 which will now articulate with HMNS 1010. ECED 202 will no longer need ECED 290 as a prerequisite and will also be designated as a WID course.
* 23-24-023 would like approval to create a new 3-credit course: ECED 325 Early Numeracy: Mathematical Concepts, which will educate students about skills for use in the revised ECED Community Program (below).
* 23-24-024 would like approval to create a new 2-credit course, ECED 445 Early Childhood Learning and Teaching for use in the revised ECED Teaching concentration (see below).
* 23-24-025 Would like approval to revise HPE 345 Wellness for the Young Child, B-8, to include materials from HPE 344 Infant Toddler Health and Wellness which can then be deleted as the two enrolled ECED B-3 students will be able to substitute the revised HPE 345 to complete. Currently different concentrations use each course, but as these are being combined it make sense to combine this course rather than include both. The prerequisite also needs a slight word change to apply to both programs moving forward. Transfer agreement with CCRI for HPE 345 and HMNS 1080 will remain in place for the revised course.
* 23-24-026 would like approval to revise the title, description, prerequisite and content of what will become an updated SPED 305 Supporting Young Children B-5 with Exceptionalities to better fit the revised ECED community program.

***Discussion****: Leslie Sevey offered an overview of the changes and invited questions. Suchandra Basu asked about the outcomes used in the proposed ECED 325 course, but it was pointed out these were modelled on the education outcomes rather than the Math Gen Ed. ones, which is why they looked somewhat different.*

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

* ***Motion to Approve #027*** *(Burke/Basu)*
* 23-24-027 Approve the combination of the former ECED concentrations in Community and Birth-3 into a concentration called: Birth to Five Community programs (and the Community Programs and Birth to 3 concentrations will be deleted). It will combine the requisite courses from each former concentration to create a single, more thorough major in Birth-5 that is 70 credits (66 with one Gen Ed. doubling). The admissions and retention requirements are being revised, PSYC 110 is being dropped in favor of CEP 215, one new course (ECED 325) is being added, and some other courses being dropped. All current cohorts are completing their programs and the changes will not impact them, two Birth-3 students can substitute the HPE 345 for the HPE 344 which they still need. If there are any students who fell out of the cohort sequence, the department will work with them to create a plan for substitutions. A Writing in the Discipline plan has been approved by the Writing Board for the new major, and alongside ECED 202W, ECED 232 and ECED 479 will also be designated as WID courses, and those courses that use one of these for a prerequisite will have the “W” added to where they are listed, and the prerequisite of ECED 479 will be revised to reflect the program revision.

***Discussion****: none*

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

* ***Motion to Approve #028*** *(Burke/Galvez)*

23-24-028 approve revisions to the ECED Teaching concentration that reduces the major from 86 to 69 credits (65 with one Gen Ed. doubling). The admissions and retention requirements are being revised, PSYC 110 is being dropped in favor of CEP 215, one new early Spring course is being added (ECED 445), and some other courses being dropped; ECED 441 and ECED 470 will be deleted from the catalog as the last cohort that needs them will have completed this semester so no need for any teach out. If there are any students who fell out of the cohort sequence, the department will work with them to create a plan for substitutions. A new cohort will begin afresh in Fall 2024. Several course revisions will also need to be made to assist students in taking the courses in the correct sequence (so changing when ECED 232; ECED 305; ECED 326; ECED 439; ECED 469W; TESL 300 are offered) and for the TESL 300 Promoting Early Childhood Dual Language Development, a new prerequisite.

***Discussion****: none*

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

**Note: #29 and #30 were approved last meeting.**

* ***Motion to Approve #031*** *(Mukherjee/Becker)*
* 23-24-031 Approve a revision to HPE 444 Practicum in Adapted Physical Education to add an additional credit to better reflect the hours the students cover for this early spring practicum. Going from 2 to 3 credits.

***Discussion****: none*

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

* ***Motion to Approve #032*** *(Basu/Becker)*

23-24-032 Approve revisions to the Physical Education program’s retention policies that offer greater clarity and update to current practice in the field (parallel the revision to Health Ed. program that was approved last semester). Also would like approval to drop the 3-credit HPE 102 Human Health and Disease course, which with the additional credit on the HPE 444 will allow the program to be reduced by 2 credits from 81 to 79 (12 of these are also offset against Gen Ed. courses--AQSR, NS, SB), and delete the reference to a possible Specialization in Adapted Physical Education which is no longer needed.

***Discussion****: none*

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

1. Any Other Business

* ***Motion to adjourn*** *at 2:31 (Galvez/Hughes)*

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

*Respectfully submitted by Glenn Rawson*