Rhode Island College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Minutes for the meeting of 17 March 2023

2.00pm-4.00pm, by Zoom

**Present**: Sue Abbotson (Chair), Suchandra Basu, Todd Borgerding, John Burke, Seth Dixon, Natasha Feinberg, Anthony Galvez, Qian Liu, Cara McDermott-Fasy, Soumyadeep Mukherjee, Marianne Raimondo (SOB Dean), Glenn Rawson (Secretary), Earl Simson (FAS Dean), Holly Shadoian (for Provost/VPAA, non-voting), Traci Weinstein,

**Absent**: Wendy Becker, Melissa Cordeiro (student), Carolynn Masters (Provost/VPAA), Isabella Santoro (student)

**Excused**: Annette Griffin, Joe Zornado (COGE Chair)

**Guests**: Giselle Auger, Stefan Battle, Suzanne Conklin, Andrea Del Vecchio, Carla Narvaez Diaz, Josh Diem, Val Endress, Kim Jinsoo, Brian Knoth, Dana Kolibachuk, George Ladd, Chris Marco, Kim Martin,

1. Call to order at 2:03

1. Motion to approve minutes from 17 Feb. 2023 (S. Basu/J. Burke)

***Action:*** *Approved: 13 in favor, 1 abstained.*

1. Report of the Chair

* New proposal form still in progress due to the large number of proposals that were submitted for this month’s meeting. Hopefully have a revised draft next meeting.

***Discussion:*** *UCC Chair Sue Abbotson reports that work continues on a revision of the UCC proposal form, and she hopes to bring that to the committee before the end of the academic year, pending further work with the Committee on Online Learning.*

1. Monthly Reports

* COGE report: *UCC Chair Sue Abbotson reports for COGE Chair Joe Zornado. COGE approved the General-Education-related proposals that are on the UCC’s agenda today. COGE recommends not proceeding with Gen Ed assessment this semester, but postponing to next Academic Year, pending further work by COGE and the Gen Ed Task Force on outcomes and rubrics. A proposal at COGE to create a COGE Executive Committee has been discussed but not approved there. Gen Ed Task Force continues to hold its weekly sessions for open discussions of their work at noon on Thursdays at the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning.*

***Discussion:*** *Sue Abbotson noted some of the reasons that UCC Executive Committee recently considered the proposal for a COGE Executive Committee to be a good idea, especially with the anticipated increased workload with potential major changes coming to the Gen Ed curriculum, and noted that UCC can still create a COGE Executive Committee if UCC sees fit. UCC Executive Committee members Glenn Rawson and John Burke said that if we wish to create a COGE Executive Committee, they would like to hear the reasons for which current COGE members decided not to recommend that.*

1. New Business

**Motion to approve #035** (Q. Liu/J. Burke)

* 22-23-035 would like to add PHIL 207 Technology and the Future of Humanity as an alternative cognate to PHIL 206 Ethics in the CSCI BS program, they feel that while PHIL 207 may be a better fit for the program, they do not want to prevent students from being able to take or transfer in with PHIL 206, which remains a useful course. Program total is not affected.

***Discussion****: Proposer Qian Liu explained that PHIL 207 was added because it was considered more specifically suited to the CSCI BS, and that PHIL 206 is being retained as an option for this requirement primarily for purposes of students transferring from CCRI, where an equivalent of PHIL 206 is offered.*

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

**Motion to bundle and approve ##036-046** (S. Basu/J. Burke)

* 22-23-036 asks to revise the title of COMM 243W Preproduction for Digital Media to COMM 243W Writing for Media to better emphasize its nature as a writing course, and due to an error it also needs to have the “W” added (that was already approved as a WID course, as was COMM 340W, to which the “W” should also be added), and while we’re there, switch when COMM 243W is offered from Fall, Spring, to just Fall.
* 22-23-037 asks to take away the current prerequisites for COMM 246 Television Production as they are not necessary for success in this course, and place an unnecessary barrier for enrolling students, and would like to change when offered to just Spring.
* 22-23-038 would like to revise COMM 334 Introduction to Advertising to become COMM 234, which is a more appropriate level prefix for the materials in this course, and the prerequisite of 45 earned credits can also be removed as unnecessary. Also change when offered from Spring to Fall to be able to better balance offerings.
* 22-23-039 would like to revise the rather vague COMM 337 Advanced Advertising to become the more accurate and precise COMM 337 Advertising Strategy and Media Planning (so no change in actual material covered). The prerequisite will also need to be update due to #036 to become COMM 234 or COMM 334, and the course should now be offered just annually.
* 22-23-040 would like to revise COMM 339W Creativity for Public Relations and Advertising to become COMM 339W Creativity for Communication and Media, to be able to make it more suited to the combined media and advertising concentration (so outcomes and outline have been included), and the description will also be revised. The prerequisite will need updating to become COMM 201W, or COMM 232 or COMM 301, or COMM 234 or COMM 334, or permission of instructor and department chair, to better suit the needs of the revised programs.
* 22-23-041 would like to revise the prerequisite of COMM 343 Audio Production for Multimedia to become the more suitable “COMM 244 or permission of instructor and department chair,” and change when offered to “Annually.”
* 22-23-042 would like to revise the title of COMM 345 Advanced Digital Media Production to become the better focused COMM 345 Digital Media Production, as well as revise the prerequisite to become the more suitable “COMM 244 or permission of instructor and department chair,” and change when offered to just Fall.
* 22-23-043 would like to revise the prerequisite of COMM 346 Sports Reporting to the more suitable COMM 252 Multimedia Journalism and change when offered to Spring (even years).
* 22-23-044 would like to revise COMM 349 Media Theory and Research to combine elements of that and materials from COMM 335 Research for Public Relations and Advertising to create COMM 349 Media and Advertising Research, and outcomes and outline are included. COMM 335 will be deleted and any student needing that for an older major will be able to substitute the revised course. The new course will also have an updated description and prerequisite of COMM 234 or COMM 334, and it will be offered in the Spring.
* 22-23-045 would like to revise COMM 492 Digital Media Practicum to become COMM 462 Media and Advertising Portfolio. Though maintaining the same outcomes, to accommodate the changing focus we would also like to revise the description, the prerequisites and when it will be offered.
* 22-23-046 would like to create a new course COMM 245 Social Media Communication for use as a restricted elective in the major and as a Gen Ed. SB distribution course.

***Discussion****: Some minor typo edits were noted for the documents prior to the vote.*

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

* **Motion to approve #047** (J. Burke/N. Feinberg)
* 22-23-047 would like to revise the Media Communication concentration to bring in courses from the previous Advertising and Journalism offerings to become the broader concentration of Media Communication and Advertising. All teach-out scenarios are covered in the proposal, and the new major will go from 60 credits down to 52 as there will be slight amendments to the core and required electives (with 8 credits that may be able to double count as Gen Eds.). The proposal also includes changing when a selection of other COMM courses will be offered and all those who use these courses have been informed of the change: COMM 242, 252, 348 and 443.

***Discussion****: In response to a question about the extent to which this proposal was department-motivated or administration-imposed, COMM Chair Giselle Auger explained that the main cause was last year’s annual program review, which led the department, with compromise and consensus, to revise the program primarily to serve student trends and needs.*

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

* **Motion to approve #048** (A. Galvez/S. Mukherjee)
* 22-23-048 would like to delete the BA Communication concentration in Journalism. There are currently only two students enrolled, neither of whom are active, but should they wish to complete, several Journalism courses will continue to be offered as part of the revised concentration in Media Communication and Advertising, and there are possible substitutions for others they may need.

***Discussion****: COMM Chair Giselle Auger explained that in recent years students have not been allowed to choose Journalism as a concentration, due to the loss of the one faculty member to teach Journalism-specific courses.*

***Action****: Approved: 11 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstained*

* 22-23-049 HSCI proposal WITHDRAWN.
* **Motion to bundle and approve ##050-054** (T. Weinstein/S. Basu)
* 22-23-050 would like to remove the current Math competency prerequisite for CHEM 105 General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry I as an unnecessary barrier as sufficient math is taught within the course to cover what students will need.
* 22-23-051 would like to remove the current Math competency prerequisite for PSCI 103 Physical Science as an unnecessary barrier as sufficient math is taught within the course to cover what students will need.
* 22-23-052 would like to remove the current Math competency prerequisite for PSCI 211 Introduction to Astronomy as an unnecessary barrier as sufficient math is taught within the course to cover what students will need.
* 22-23-053 would like to remove the current Math competency prerequisite for PSCI 212 Introduction to Geology as an unnecessary barrier as sufficient math is taught within the course to cover what students will need.
* 22-23-054 would like to remove the current Math competency prerequisite for PSCI 217 Introduction to Oceanography as an unnecessary barrier as sufficient math is taught within the course to cover what students will need.

***Discussion****: PSCI Chair Andrea Del Vecchio explains that the Math Competency requirement is being maintained for the courses in the major, and it is being removed only from courses that are for more general audiences and don’t need all of what is in the Math Competency requirement. These courses will include teaching of the particular math skills that are required. For example, the Math Competency has been a prerequisite for CHEM 105 only in the last eight years, and it doesn’t seem to make much of a difference in success in the course. On the other hand, about 65 nursing students were unable to register for CHEM 105 in fall of this year because they had not passed the Math Competency exam, and that delays their plans for graduation.*

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

**Motion to approve #055** (S. Basu/T. Weinstein)

* 22-23-055 would like to revise the prerequisite for ENGL 461W to become just one upper-level creative writing workshop rather than two, to allow students more timely entrance into the class; it can still retain its “W” status.

***Discussion****: none*

***Action****: Unanimously approved. [13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained; 1 unable to respond as Wifi connection was dropped]*

**Motion to approve #056** (G. Rawson/N. Feinberg)

* 22-23-056 would like to revise BIOL 240 Biostatistics to become a lab course (still four credits but meets for 6 hours a week) to allow extra time for students to learn coding, and the title will change to BIOL 240 Biostatistics and Experimental Design to reflect this, along with an updated description. Other programs using this course have been notified of the changes.

***Discussion****: Some UCC members noted that it’s good that the new program to be used is R, which is open access.*

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

**Motion to bundle and approve ##057-060** (T. Borgerding/S. Basu)

* 22-23-057 would like to create a new 4 credit lab course to be used in a Biotechnology program, BIOT 270W Introduction to Biotechnology.
* 22-23-058 would like to create a new 4 credit lab course to be used in a Biotechnology program, BIOT 370 Techniques in Biotechnology
* 22-23-059 would like to create a new flexible 6-10 credit internship course to be used in a Biotechnology program, BIOT 471-475 Biotechnology Internship Experience.
* 22-23-060 would like to create a new 2 credit course to be used alongside the internship course in a Biotechnology program, BIOT 465W Biotechnology Internship Seminar.

***Discussion****: BIOL Chair Dana Kolibachuk explains that the search for a faculty member who will teach these courses is currently underway, and the position is being funded by the state. There will be state funds for facilities renovations related to these courses as well. The sizes of the internships are variable in light of URI’s difficulty with arranging their more rigid larger internships and in light of successes at peer institutions with variable internships. The Biology Department was directed (even “pressured”) to create these BIOT courses and the new BIOT program by RIC administration in conjunction with the state, and the department is mainly glad to be adding this program. The renovated spaces will benefit the Biology program as well, and student transfer between BIOL and BIOT will be fairly easy. Marianne Raimondo commented that this is connected to the state’s investing about $45 million to emulate the kind of life-sciences hubs and incubators that have occurred over the last decade in MA and CT. UCC member Todd Borgerding points out that the funds provided by the state come from taxpayers and benefit the biotech companies.*

***Action****: Unanimously approved [13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained; 1 unable to respond as Wifi connection was dropped]*

**Motion to approve #061** (T. Weinstein/S. Abbotson)

* 22-23-061 would like to create a new program: Biotechnology BS to be administered through the Biology department, using existing courses as well as several newly created ones specific for the program, which will be 69-76 total credits (with 16 potentially double counting as Gen Ed. credits). The college has been given a state grant and promised future investment to develop this program.

***Discussion****: See discussion of ##057-060 above. Also kudos were offered to the originators for their inclusion of courses from different departments in the program and the choice of a flexible internship.*

***Action****: Approved: 11 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstain [1 left the meeting]*

**Motion to bundle and approve ##062-063** (N. Feinberg/S. Mukherjee)

* 22-23-062 would like to create a new 4 credit course to be used in a new BPS Concentration of Strategic Communication and for Communications students: COMM 328 Case Studies in Public Relations.
* 22-23-063 would like to create a new 4 credit course to be used in a new BPS Concentration in Strategic Communication and for Communications students: COMM 439 Crisis Communication.

***Discussion****: none*

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

**Motion to approve #064** (S. Mukherjee/S. Basu)

* 22-23-064 would like to create a new 4 credit course to be used just in a new BPS Concentration in Strategic Communication: BPS 462 Seminar in Strategic Communication. This course will only be offered online.

***Discussion****: none*

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

**Motion to approve #065** (S. Mukherjee/N. Feinberg)

* 22-23-065 would like to create a new BPS Concentration in Strategic Communication. It will consist of 36 credits, using existing courses and three new ones designed for the major. Catalog copy contains additional editorial updates that need to be made to accommodate this addition and clarify the overall program.

***Discussion****: none*

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

**Motion to approve #066** (A. Galvez/S. Abbotson)

* 22-23-066 would like to create a new 16 credit CUS called Conflict and Crisis Communication. Its courses will be included as part of the new BPS Concentration in Strategic Communication.

***Discussion****: This will be a “stackable credential” built into that BPS Concentration and automatically earned by students along their way to that BA. Each BPS Concentration has such a CUS built in. These built-in certificates are meant to be a retention tool as well as potentially having value to employers. The CUS could be earned by other students too, if the relevant courses are offered beyond BPS sections, which are currently restricted to BPS students.*

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

**Motion to bundle and approve ##067-069 and ##071-077** (S. Mukherjee/Q. Liu)

* 22-23-067 would like to revise the title and description of COMM 201W Writing for News to become COMM 201W Writing for Strategic Communication.
* 22-23-068 would like to revise the title and description of COMM 208 Public Speaking to become COMM 208 Public Presentations; other programs using this course have been notified of the change.
* 22-23-069 would like to revise COMM 301 Introduction to Public Relations to become COMM 232 Introduction to Public Relations which is a more appropriate numerical level for the course material, the description will also be revised to be more student centered and the former prerequisite dropped as unnecessary. Several courses use COMM 301 as a prerequisite, so they will be updated in other proposals.
* 22-23-071 would like to revise the numbering (to more accurately reflect course content), title, description, and when offered of COMM 251W Research Methods in Communication to become COMM 300W Research Methods for Strategic Communication. Many COMM courses use COMM 251W as a prerequisite, and they will all be updated in other proposals.
* 22-23-072 would like to revise the title, description, and prerequisite of COMM 312W Advanced Writing: Public Relations and Advertising to become COMM 312W Advanced Writing for Strategic Communication.
* 22-23-073 would like to revise the numbering (to a more appropriate level for the materials covered) and description of COMM 452 Conflict Resolution to become COMM 352 Conflict Resolution.
* 22-23-074 would like to revise the title and when offered of COMM 354 Communication and Civic Engagement to become COMM 354 Civic Engagement. Liberal Studies also uses this course so has been notified of the change.
* 22-23-075 would like to turn a previously successful topics course into the 4 credit COMM 451 Family Communication for use in the Strategic Communication program.
* 22-23-076 would like to revise the title, description and prerequisite of COMM 461 Public and Professional Capstone to become COMM 461 Strategic Communication Capstone
* 22-23-077 would like to revise the prerequisites of several COMM courses (COMM 255W, 305, 311W, 320W, 323, 325, 412, 422, 460, 485, and 491) to reflect changing course numbers in the other proposals.

***Discussion****: none*

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

* 22-23-070 would like to revise the title, description, prerequisite and when offered of COMM 256 Social Media and Society, to become COMM 256 Human Communication and New Technology, and also turn it into a Gen Ed. SB distribution course.

***Action:*** *This has been tabled pending COGE approval.*

**Motion to approve #078** (S. Mukherjee/S. Basu)

* 22-23-078 would like to revise the previous Public and Professional Communications concentration into a free-standing Strategic Communication BA within the Communication department (that merges the P&P concentration with courses from the previous Public Relations concentration). The revised program will have 40 total credits (down from 44 for the P&P). Several courses are being retitled and have their descriptions updated in other proposals to reflect this revision.

***Discussion****: none*

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

**Motion to approve #093** (J. Burke/M. Raimondo)

* 22-23-093 would like to revise the prerequisite of COMM 357 Public Opinion and Propaganda to COMM 208 or by consent of department chair, to better ally with the revised and new programs.

***Discussion****: none*

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

**Motion to approve #094** (N. Feinberg/S. Mukherjee)

* 22-23-094 would like to delete the Public Relations and Advertising Communications concentration. Its courses have been absorbed into other continuing programs so it will be easy for current PR and PRAD students to complete either the programs they enrolled in or switch to one of the revised ones.

***Discussion****: none*

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

**Motion to bundle and approve ##079-089** (T. Weinstein/J. Burke)

* 22-23-079 would like to revise the titles revise titles, and descriptions of PSYC 351 Psychology of Human Diversity, PSYC 356 Psychology of Gender, and PSYC 421 Behavior Modification to become PSYC 351 Psychology of Intersectionality, PSYC 356 Psychology of Genders and Sexuality, and PSYC 421 Changing Behavior: Applied Behavior Analysis, and PSYC 424 Health Psychology to revise the description to better indicate its DEI topics. All will also revise their prerequisites to prevent a bottle-neck in upper-level courses.
* 22-23-080 would like to revise PSYC 349 Cognitive Psychology to become PSYC 249 Cognitive Psychology, and also simplify the prerequisite to just PSYC 110 reflect this change.
* 22-23-081 would like to revise PSYC 354 Psychopathology to become PSYC 254 Introduction to Psychological Disorders, with a revised description, and also simplify the prerequisite to just PSYC 110 reflect this change.
* 22-23-082 would like to create a new 4 credit course PSYC 355 Psychology of Social Class for use in the Psychology major and minor and also add to the Gender and Women’s Studies major and minor programs, and the Queer Studies minor.
* 22-23-083 would like to create a new 4 credit course PSYC 428 The Science of Happiness for use in the Psychology major and minor
* 22-23-084 would like to create a new 4 credit course PSYC 427 Psychology in the Workplace for use in the Psychology major and minor
* 22-23-085 would like to create a new 4 credit course PSYC 429 Psychology of Social Change for use in the Psychology major and minor
* 22-23-086 would like to create a new 4 credit course PSYC 451 Stress and Trauma for use in the Psychology major and minor.
* 22-23-087 would like to create a new 4 credit course PSYC 453 Child and Adolescent Psychopathology for use in the Psychology major and minor and be available for Behavioral Health Studies majors.
* 22-23-088 would like to create a new 4 credit course PSYC 454 Adult Psychopathology for use in the Psychology major and minor and be available for Behavioral Health Studies majors.
* 22-23-089 would like to update other prerequisites on upper level PSYC course to be more efficient to ensure students have the proper knowledge in order to succeed in the courses but also do not get stuck in a bottle-neck waiting for a requirement.

***Discussion****: Some UCC members expressed appreciation for the clear and effective coordination of all these proposals. In response to questioning, Psychology professor Christine Marco explains that the department faculty has the relevant specialties for all the new courses, and that with adjustments in the schedule of offerings for some other upper-level courses, they can cover these new courses on schedule.*

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

**Motion to approve #090** (J. Burke/S. Mukherjee)

* 22-23-090 would like to make a number of changes to the Psychology BA and minor programs to facilitate better student access to needed courses and to add a number of options more current in the discipline. Several related proposals include these new courses, as well as revisions to existing courses. Total credits remain the same for both (44/24).

***Discussion****: none*

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

**Motion to approve #091** (S. Mukherjee/T. Weinstein)

* 22-23-091 would like to revise the Behavioral Health Studies program to reflect changes in the Psychology major and adopt some of their new courses. Total credits remain the same (68). Includes a revision of the prerequisite of PSYC 452 Theories of Psychological Interventions.

***Discussion****: none*

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

**Motion to approve #092** (Q. Liu/T. Weinstein)

* 22-23-092 would like to revise PHIL 200 to become PHIL 100 as a more suitable number for an introductory course.

***Discussion****: none*

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

**Motion to approve #095** (N. Feinberg/S. Basu)

* 22-23-095 would like to make a small edit to the General Education description for the BPS program to allow for more choices of writing courses that can satisfy their Professional Writing category.

***Discussion****: none*

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

**Motion to approve #096** (M. Raimondo/T. Borgerding)

* 22-23-096 would like to revise SWRK 200 to become a Gen Ed. SB distribution course, with a revised title and description and when offered.

***Discussion****: none*

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

1. Any Other Business

UCC member John Burke again raised the issue of whether the approval of a motion requires the majority of voting members present or the majority of non-abstaining voting members present. Roberts Rules allows for either, and it has not mattered yet in the memory of members who spoke up today. John recommends that we decide and publish it. UCC Chair recommends that the Executive Committee discuss this at their next meeting and make a decision.

***Motion to adjourn*** *(J. Burke/A. Galvez)*

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

*Respectfully submitted by Glenn Rawson.*