

Annual Report on the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee to Council

5 May 2022

Submitted by the chair Susan Abbotson

Membership (names, terms, department, constituency):

Susan Abbotson (2020-22) English, Humanities
Glenn Rawson (2021-23) Philosophy, Humanities
Anthony Galvez (2021-23) Communication, Arts
Todd Borgerding (2020-22) Music, Theatre, Dance, Arts
Seth Dixon (2020-22) Political Science, Social Sciences
Traci Weinstein (2021-23) Psychology, Social Sciences
Dan Hewins (2020-2022) Biology, Science
John Burke (2021-23) Mathematics and Computer Science, Science
Suchandra Basu (2021-23) Economics and Finance, Business
Charles McLaughlin (2020-22) Education Studies, Education
Soumyndee Mukherjee (2021-23) Health and Physical Education, Education
Natasha Feinberg (2021-23) Elementary Education, Education
Annette Griffin (2020-22) Nursing
Joshua Diem (2020-22) Social Work
Joe Zornado as Chair of COGE
Earl Simpson as Dean FAS
Carolynn Masters as Dean of Nursing
Helen Tate as Provost (non-voting)
Jacob Card as undergraduate student.

Membership for next year for each expiring seat has been voted upon. Some will stay for another terms, changes will be Wendy Becker for Social Work, Cara McDermott-Fasy for Education, Melissa Cordeiro and Isabella Santoro for undergraduate students. Deans have yet to be decided.

Executive UCC 2021-2022:

Susan Abbotson (Chair)
Charles McLaughlin (Secretary)
Helen Tate (non-voting)
Todd Borgerding
John Burke

Executive for 2022-2023 will be voted up at the May 13th UCC meeting.

Meeting dates of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee:

19 Nov. 2021, 17 Dec. 2021, 18 Feb. 2022, 18 March 2022, 15 April 2022, 13 May 2022.

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

1 Oct. 2021, 5 Nov. 2021, 3 Dec. 2021, 4 Feb. 2022, 4 March 2022, 1 April 2022, 6 May 2022.

Work done:

This year the UCC has fostered, considered, and approved (assuming May proposals are also approved) 48 proposals that are all detailed on the UCC website [https://w3.ric.edu/curriculum_committee/Pages/Undergraduate-Curriculum-Committee-Documents.aspx]. These include a variety of course revisions to titles and descriptions to make these clearer, and in some cases approach the topic with more diversity, changes to prerequisites to allow for great flexibility and to improve student movement through programs. Some courses have been merged to allow for greater flexibility in a department's offerings, and there have been some updated to better suit student needs in General Education, alongside a few new offerings, and a single credit course ENGL 203 created to explore Careers in the Humanities. We also deleted 23 courses that have not been offered in the past three years and cleaned up a few catalog errors. In addition, some programs (such as Global Studies, Social Work, Modern Languages, Data Science, and Justice Studies) have been revised to embrace greater diversity, be more accessible, reduce the number of credits, or clarify and streamline field work demands. A few adjustments were made to the BPS program, revising the entrance course BPS 100 and creating a new CUS in Workplace Diversity for use in its Organizational Leadership concentration, but also available to other students who might be interested. There is also a new program in Vascular Interventional Radiology as an added concentration in Medical Imaging BS, and the Chemical Dependency and Addiction Studies program will be changing its name to Behavioral Health Studies.

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. We worked with Records to try and better establish courses that had been designated by departments as Writing in the Discipline (WID) courses (these are identified with a "W" at the end of the prefix). Everyone checked their constituencies to ensure the new website contained the Learning Goals, WID statements and Academic Rhode Maps for every undergraduate program, and those missing were chased down to be added. Also, we looked into the current JAA and 2+2 offerings to see if they were up-to-date, encourage departments to consider creating more, and offer guidance in doing so. We made several additions to the UCC Proposal form to be able to gather better information about how proposals might affect transfer agreements, areas on the website that may need to be updated, institutional research concerns, and how courses are categorized, and we added Financial Aid and Institutional Research as needing to be notified when proposals reach final approval. We updated several parts of the UCC Manual that had fallen out of date in terms of both language and policy—most notably information on preparing proposals to cover an electronic submission process, and appendix sections on the Mathematics Competency, Interdisciplinary Courses, and the mandate of our sub-committee, the Writing Board. We also took a look at the way some courses use a number of completed credits as the prerequisite, but determined that for some disciplines this makes sense

for enable greater flexibility and easier transfer, and since it is built into the system and is not a manual process, it can stay as it is.

Annual reports from those currently tasked to report to UCC, which include Student Designed Majors, Transfer Minors, College Honors, Writing Board and Committee on General Education (COGE) will be given on May 13th and be placed on the UCC website. This year COGE has mostly worked on assessing the current General Education program with an eye to a possible revision for the future. [<https://www.ric.edu/department-directory/undergraduate-curriculum-committee/curriculum-committee-reports>].