

**Rhode Island College
Committee on General Education
Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Friday, September 15, 2023 (9 – 10 am)
Location: Zoom**

Present: K. Almeida, S. Basu (Chair), J. Capece, B. Caouette, S. Costa, J. Dagle, D. Gill, R. Kraus II, Q. Hughes, E. Miller, S. Picard. R. Quintana Vallejo.

Excused: C. Masters, J. Harrison, L. Schuster.

Absent: J. Fearon-Lynch, S. Oliveira

The September 2023 COGE meeting opened at 9:05 am on Zoom with the introduction of all members, including the new COGE Chair and other new members joining the committee in the 23-24 academic year.

I. COGE Business on the September Agenda

I.1. Election of members to the inaugural COGE Executive Committee

The Chair invited nominations for 2 seats on the new COGE Executive committee (EC). The following 4 candidates nominated themselves, requiring committee voting:

Karen Almeida – Physical Sciences

Elisa Miller – History

Stephanie Costa – Mathematics

Ricardo Quintana Vallejo – English

Candidates were requested to provide a reason for volunteering their service on the COGE EC before proceeding with voting. The following (summarized) reasons were shared by each candidate:

Karen Almeida – She has served on COGE, has been leading the Gen Ed Revision Task Force in the last two years, and has thought a lot about Gen Ed and the Gen Ed program at RIC in the process.

Elisa Miller – She has served on COGE for many years, taught in the Gen Ed program, and is currently serving on the Gen Ed transfer Task Force.

Stephanie Costa – She is also a long-serving member of COGE and thinks that the COGE Executive Committee is a good idea.

Ricardo Quintana Vallejo – He is a new COGE member and a junior faculty at RIC. He is excited to be part of a new initiative and will bring a fresh perspective to the committee.

A motion was forwarded to proceed with voting. Rudy Kraus approved the motion and Jesse Capece seconded.

Quenby Hughes volunteered to administer the polling and sought clarification on the following two points: 1) would voting follow a simple majority rule or ranked choice rule? and 2) should voting elect members one seat at a time or for both seats simultaneously? Simple majority voting and electing members one seat at a time was suggested.

Voting proceeded via Google poll. Karen Almeida was elected in the first round of voting, however, voting had to be redone to correct an error which revealed an extra vote than voting members. Stephanie Costa was elected to the first EC seat on a revote. Elisa Miller was elected to the second EC seat.

COGE now has an Executive Committee composed of the following members as outlined in the UCC manual: 1) Suchandra Basu, Chair 2) Quenby Hughes, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, 3) Stephanie Costa, continuing COGE member elected by the committee, 4) Elisa Miller, continuing COGE member elected by the committee.

I.II. COGE Meeting Time

COGE members were asked about the following suggested standing meeting times for the committee:

COGE EC – First Friday of the month 9-11 am, on Zoom (time subject to change before finalizing upon further consultation with EC members).

COGE – Third Friday of the month 9-11 am, on Zoom.

Members agreed to the suggested meeting times for the 23-24 academic year. The meeting times will be published on the COGE website.

I.III. Non-curricular COGE Activities

Suchandra Basu requested that members share their thoughts on activities COGE should work on this year outside of vetting and approving Gen Ed course proposals. Faculty shared the following ideas.

A cleaner process to submit, track and manage Gen Ed course proposals is needed. Dragan Gill offered to help with a project management style process for managing course proposals.

COGE's own survey shows that the Gen Ed program is misunderstood by RIC students and faculty and COGE should consider working on communicating the value of Gen Ed to the college community.

It is important to assess the existing Gen Ed courses to check whether and how the current Gen Ed learning outcomes are being taught.

These were noted as all good ideas, and the committee will start tackling these issues in a mutually agreed upon sequence.

II. Other Questions and Discussions

A question was raised on what COGE would do with the Gen Ed Task Force's recommendations and to what extent COGE could also make recommendations. Discussion ensued on the role of COGE in revising and updating Gen Ed at the college. It was noted that COGE does indeed have the ability to make recommendations about Gen Ed revisions, however, the current Gen Ed Task Force makes its recommendations directly to the Provost.

Finally, a request was made to add DEIA considerations to COGE's Fall agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by

Suchandra Basu

COGE Secretary for September 2023