Rhode Island College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Minutes for the meeting of 21 April 2023

2.00pm-4.00pm, by Zoom

**Present**: Sue Abbotson (Chair), John Burke, Seth Dixon, Natasha Feinberg, Anthony Galvez, Annette Griffin, Qian Liu, Carolynn Masters (Provost/VPAA), Soumyadeep Mukherjee, Glenn Rawson (Secretary), Traci Weinstein

**Absent**: Suchandra Basu, Wendy Becker, Melissa Cordeiro (student), Isabella Santoro (student), Earl Simson (FAS Dean)

**Excused**: Todd Borgerding, Cara McDermott Fasy, Marianne Raimundo (SOB Dean), Joe Zornado (COGE Chair)

**Guests**: Andrea DelVecchio, Eric Hall, Tamecka Hardmon, Theodore Jenkins, Chris Marco

1. Call to order at 2:03

1. Motion to Approve minutes from 17 March 2023 (A. Galvez/J. Burke)

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

1. Report of the Chair
* Executive UCC have decided that UCC will use the Roberts Rules option that a majority vote will be determined as a majority of voting members present at a meeting who have not abstained. Thus, a vote to abstain is just that, rather than a technical “No.”
* New draft of the proposal form to consider in “any other business,” along with a slight amendment to the UCC Manual and the suggested creation of an Executive COGE to assist their Chair, beginning next Fall.
* Given this change applies to a new course just proposed and not yet offered or entered into the catalog, we are simply making a notification that an editorial change was made to the numbers of the new BIOT internship course, instead of BIOT 471-475, it was felt that BIOT 406-410 would work better as the last digits would indicate the chosen number of credits of the internship, and that was enacted on the proposal and catalog copy ready for the Fall catalog.
* The chair of the Elections Committee has sent out a notification (on 4/7) to relevant departments to seek nominations for the expiring seats on UCC. Those whose seats are expiring all self-nominated to stay on, and if there are no other nominations then they will continue for a further two-year commitment.
* Reminder/heads up: to avoid a clash with Council and to have the meeting within the Spring semester’s timespan, our final May meeting will be on 12 May 2023. The 2023-2024 UCC committee will meet at noon to elect officers for next year, and the full UCC 2022-2023 meeting will begin at 12.15pm.
* I invite nominations for the Executive UCC ahead of that meeting; please e-mail your interest to curriculum@ric.edu.

***Discussion:*** *none*

1. Monthly Reports
* COGE report: *UCC Chair Sue Abbotson reports for COGE Chair Joe Zornado. COGE has approved the proposal from Communication that's on today's UCC agenda (#070), and a proposal from Political Science that will be on our May agenda. COGE has been discussing changes of language on forms on the COGE website, and has received updates from the General Education Task Force about their work on learning outcomes and their goal of making recommendations to the Provost in fall 2023, after which they will go to COGE and UCC.*

***Discussion:*** *none*

1. Old Business

 ***Motion to Approve #070*** *(A. Galvez/S. Dixon)*

* 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.

***Discussion****: none*

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

1. New Business

***Motion to Bundle and Approve ##097-100*** *(N. Feinberg/S. Dixon)*

* 22-23-097 would like to create a new one-credit course for Political Science students and those interested in careers in policy or government: POL 111 Careers in Politics and Public Policy.
* 22-23-098 would like to create a new 4 credit course POL 245 Gender and Global Politics that will also be cross-listed as GEND 245 Gender and Global Politics, this can be used as a restricted elective in POL programs, but also GEND major and minor, and Queer studies minor and Global Studies major, so the proposal includes revisions also to these last four as they each list their restricted electives.
* 22-23-099 asks to revise the title of POL 308W to become: POL 308 Research and Writing in Political Science and update the description to follow suit in making this clearer that it is a writing course.
* 22-23-100 would like to revise the title of POL 341 to become the more timely POL 341 Politics of Development. This course is an elective for: the INGOS minor and certificate, Africana Studies major and minor, Latin American Studies minor, the Global Studies major, the Environmental Studies major and minor, Modern Languages Latin American Studies concentration, and International Business minor, and they have all been informed.

***Discussion****: none*

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

* 22-23-101 Tabled (being revised).

***Motion to Approve #102*** *(S. Mukherjee/N. Feinberg)*

* 22-23-102 would like to add the phrase “Students may repeat for credit.” to ART 105 Drawing II; ART 204 Synthesis 3d Emphasis; ART 205 Synthesis 2d Emphasis; ART 347 Photography II; ART 441 BA Painting V, Senior Studio; ART 442 Ceramics V: Senior Studio; ART 443 Sculpture V: Senior Studio; ART 444 Graphic Design V: Senior Studio; ART 445 Metalsmithing and Jewelry V: Senior Studio; ART 446 Ba Photography V: Senior Studio : ART 447 Printmaking V: Senior Studio; ART 448 Digital Media V: Senior Studio; ART 451 BFA Painting V: Senior Studio; ART 452 BFA Ceramics V: Senior Studio; ART 453 BFA Sculpture V: Senior Studio, ART 454 BFA Graphic Design V: Senior Studio; ART 455 BFA Metalsmithing and Jewelry V: Senior Studio; ART 456 BFA Photography V: Senior Studio; ART 457 BFA Printmaking V: Senior Studio; ART 458 BFA Digital Media V: Senior Studio to allow students to develop their vision and technique within studio areas, and to gain more practice in beginning skills.

***Discussion****: This proposal enables the Art department to continue the longstanding practice of allowing students to continue coursework for credit on selected skills, but now without using X50 catalog numbers, which was a violation of the UCC Manual provision about the use of X50 Catalog numbers.*

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

***Motion to Approve #103*** *(S. Abbotson/N. Feinberg)*

* 22-23-103 would like to make some revisions to the HSCI BS major program that will strengthen it but not increase the credit count. We are adding a WID course: ENGL 233 Writing for the Health Professions and switching COMM 338 for COMM 336 Health Communication, and also adding some additional cross-disciplinary courses to the list of restricted electives (HCA 201W Introduction to Health Care Professions, HPE 221 Nutrition, and PHYS 110 Introductory Physics) and reducing the required number to be taken from that list to one.

***Discussion****: none*

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

***Motion to Approve #104*** *(T. Weinberg/S. Mukherjee)*

* 22-23-104 would like to create a new 3-credit course RAD 437 Radiographic Mammography, that can be used as both an elective for Medical Imaging majors to gain additional certification or for those already certified to gain their certification in Mammography (through PSCE).

***Discussion****: The course is called Radiographic Mammography because there are other types of mammography (ultrasound and MRI). This course adds for some students a certification in mammography without affecting their other certifications.*

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

***Motion to Bundle and Approve ##105-110*** *(T. Weinberg/J. Burke)*

* 22-23-105 would like to create a new one credit lab course PHYS 306W Quantum Mechanics Laboratory that will take the place of the old PHYS 313 Junior Lab course, alongside with PHYS 310W Thermodynamics Laboratory by splitting the materials into two separate courses.
* 22-23-106 would like to revise the PHYS 307 Quantum Mechanics I to reduce it by one credit to 3 credits, revise the description and add MATH 212 or CHEM 405 to the prerequisite.
* 22-23-107 would like to create a new one credit lab course PHYS 310W Thermodynamics Laboratory that will take the place of the old PHYS 313 Junior Lab course, alongside with PHYS 306W Quantum Mechanics Laboratory by splitting the materials into two separate courses.
* 22-23-108 would like to revise the PHYS 311 Thermodynamics to reduce it by one credit to 3 credits.
* 22-23-109 would like to delete PHYS 313W Junior Laboratory as the department is moving to a new design that uses two separate course to cover the same material; all current students will be able to substitute these new labs in their programs in place of this.
* 22-23-110 would like to change the title of PHYS 413 to become PHYS 413 Advanced Physics Laboratory.

***Discussion****: Physical Sciences Chair Andrea DelVecchio adds that in the coming years the new PHYS lecture/lab courses will be cross-listed with the corresponding CHEM lecture/lab courses that already have the same credit structure, in such a way that the lecture portion will be common to PHYS and CHEM students but the lab portion will be separate.*

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

***Motion to Approve #111*** *(J. Burke/S. Mukherjee)*

* 22-23-111 would like to make several changes to the PHYS program to incorporate the above new and revised courses, add a couple of others already existing, delete some courses no longer needed, and to allow for more choice in the list of cognates. All these changes will reduce the program from 67-68 to 56-61.

***Discussion****: Physical Sciences Chair Andrea DelVecchio discussed the rationalia that are already on the proposal form and expanded on the benefits of enabling PHYS majors the space to now add another STEM minor.*

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

***Motion to Approve #112*** *(T. Weinberg/S. Dixon)*

* 22-23-112 would like to add the phrase “or by consent of department chair” to most of their upper-level courses (namely 331, 332, 335, 339, 341, 344, 345, 347, 351, 355, 356, 360, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 427, 428, 429, 445, 451, 452, 453, and 454) and revise the prerequisites for PSYC 474W and PSYC 476W.

***Discussion****: none*

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

***Motion to Bundle and Approve ##113-114*** *(N. Feinberg/A. Galvez)*

* 22-23-113 would like to revise the Communication BA concentration in Speech, Language and Hearing Science to delete a couple of courses from the program (COMM 208 and COMM 251W/300W) and create a group of restricted electives from existing courses with the addition to the group of a COMM 450 Topics course in Neuroscience, from which students select any two. This revision will reduce the overall total to 53-54 from 46-47.
* 22-23-114 would like to revise the prerequisites for several COMM courses to accommodate the above changes to the program, since they will be deleting COMM 251W/300W as a requirement it is not needed as a prerequisite for these following courses: COMM 255, 305, 320, 323, 325, and 422.

***Discussion****: COMM professor Theodore Jenkins explains that these changes reduce the required total credits while maintaining the most important contents for careers or graduate programs; and that the 450 Topics course for the restricted elective requirement should eventually become a regular offering in communication and neuroscience, as this is required by some but not all graduate programs in communication.*

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

***Motion to Approve #115*** *(A. Griffin/T. Weinberg)*

* 22-23-115 would like to delete the Secondary Ed. programs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, which have been suspended since 2021, as students wanting to teach sciences now all take the Secondary Education General Science option, and then add on CUS in the specific sciences on which they would like to concentrate.

***Discussion****: Some general concern was expressed that with our current arrangement of the "General Science" degree with special certificates for specific sciences, some prospective students may believe that they cannot become certified as Biology, Chemistry or Physics teachers at RIC, and so have to go to schools like URI instead.*

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

1. Any Other Business
* ***Motion to Approve*** amendment to UCC chair’s duties in the UCC Manual section 2.3; no longer required to sit on Mission and Goals Committee, which has recently been restructured by Council.

***Discussion****: UCC Chair Sue Abbotson explains that this proposal makes the Manual consistent with the determination that has already been made official by Council, in consultation with the UCC Chair.*

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

* Discussion and possible approval of the revised UCC Proposal form that includes online options to go into place for the Fall.

***Discussion****: As the considerations and requirements on the UCC Proposal Form keep growing, the proposed revisions aim to clarify by separating the sections for fully in-person courses or programs from the sections for hybrid or fully online courses or programs. This proposal is being developed in some coordination with work by the Committee on Online Learning (CoOL) concerning definitions and best practices for online learning, hybrid courses, and such. Much discussion here concerned the need to clarify which new or revised courses would have to use the section for "courses that may contain an online element": What about "flipped classroom" courses? "Tech-enhanced" courses with very robust use of LMS? Courses that are sometimes fully in-person and sometimes not? Perhaps the distinction should just be based on something like "courses intended to be always fully in-person" versus "courses intended to be sometimes or always hybrid or fully online"? (It is envisioned that when a new or revised course has been approved as intended to be always fully in-person, but then later a department intends to offer that course also as hybrid or fully online, a new proposal would have to be submitted and approved.) Chris Marco, Director of FCTL, with support from Provost Carolynn Masters, pointed out that CoOL plans some kind of standards and professional development for qualifying teachers of hybrid or online courses, in addition to the standards for courses to be approved as hybrid or online. Another unanswered question was about including in section B (about in-person courses) the same kind of questions about student engagement with content, teacher and classmates that are listed at C.11.c, d, e (about hybrid or online courses); others suggested that while these questions are important for approving hybrid or online courses, they may be encroaching too far on matters of pedagogy for fully in-person courses.*

***Action****: UCC Chair will revise to address these points and bring it back to UCC Executive Committee in May.*

* Discussion and possible approval of the Executive UCC proposal to create an Executive COGE beginning next Fall.

***Discussion/Action****: none, as one member left the meeting and so the committee was no longer quorate.*

***Motion to adjourn*** *(N. Feinberg/A. Galvez)*

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

*Respectfully submitted by Glenn Rawson.*