

Rhode Island College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of 20 March 2020  
Online due to Coronavirus; votes submitted by 4pm deadline.

**Attendance:**

**Present:** S. Abbotson, D. Abrahamson, G. Auger, M. Aydogdu, T. Borgerding, J. Diem, S. Dixon, D. Espinosa, D. Hewins, J. Magyar, C. McLaughlin, L. Owen, S. Ross, J. Sawyer, T. Weinstein, S. Zoll.

**Excused:** S. Pearlmutter, E. Simson

**Student members:** A. Diebold, S. Hackworth

**Guests:** H. Shadoian – Academic Affairs; M. Arthur - SOC; A. Barlow – Library; T. Hardmon - Records; S. Dell and Paul LaCava--SPED

1. Motion to Approve minutes: 21 February 2020 (Abbotson/McLaughlin) **Approved unanimously**
2. Report of the Chair
  - Upcoming memberships for UCC (possible elections), COGE, and Writing Board.
  - All retiring seats (8) on UCC have at least one nomination, Leo Pinheiro will be asked to inform constituent departments to see if there are any additional nominations—if so elections will be held, if not the single nominees will take those seats: Nursing (Sylvia Ross), One FSEHD (Charlie McLaughlin), One Arts (Todd Borgerding), One Humanities (Sue Abbotson), One Social Science (Seth Dixon), One Science (Dan Hewins). Anthony Diebold and Briana Stevenson will serve as 2020-2021 student members.
  - COGE has 8 expiring seats. HIST—David will stay on; Modern Languages—Chiara will stay on; Natural Science—Jim will stay on; FSEHD will welcome Tommy Ender; I have not heard from Math (Stephanie Costa), Nursing (Sharon Galloway), and we need someone for Social and Behavioral Science and another student. Feel free to share names of anyone you feel may want to take a seat on COGE.
  - Writing Board is okay to continue as is.
3. Monthly Reports
  - COGE—NO REPORT.
  - Writing Board—NO REPORT.
4. New Business

**Sociology**  
**Motion to Approve: 19-20-077** (Abbotson/McLaughlin)

  - 19-20-077 Approve the creation of SOC 435 Fieldwork in Sociology to be used as a free elective or a required elective in Sociology major and minor.

**Discussion:** This will be a variable credit course to be used as a free elective or a required elective in the Sociology major and minor. The hope is to also take this to the Graduate Committee to see if it can be used in the MA in Justice Studies, too, but that will be in a separate proposal. G. Auger suggested this is an excellent addition to the program.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

**Academic Affairs**  
**Motion to Approve: 19-20-079** (Abbotson/McLaughlin)

  - 19-20-079 Approve revisions to the college residency graduation requirement in the catalog that will now require that students take a minimum of 50% of the credits in their major courses at RIC.

**Discussion:** T. Weinstein asked what are some possible exceptions that we should be aware of that might keep a student from graduating under this change (e.g., A5)? And H. Shadoian explained that this will be a very minor issue (if any). Ex. If a student is graduating in December and met the old requirement (which, by the way was never programmed into the Academic Advising Report) and because of a large number of transfer credits does not meet the new policy, we would get that worked out with the appropriate dean. T. Weinstein also asked what the rationale is for "at least 12 credits at the 300- or 400- level?" In other words, could this possibly impact a transfer student in our major in a negative way, as opposed to just 50% of courses in general in the major? (For example, I had a transfer student whose 110-level course did not transfer--would this change impact that student negatively?). H. Shadoian responded: The "at least 12 credits" is not new and was part of the old policy – just means students will do some upper level courses here in major (for most majors, that would be just 3 courses). It would not affect community college transfers since they do not get credit for 300-level courses (just a few remaining exceptions on articulation). For your transfer student, the non-transferability is one of two reasons: either the course has no equivalent at RIC or the student didn't earn a "C" or better (that the required transfer model). Finally, T. Weinstein asked whether in general, with our ongoing discussions around trying to recruit CCRI and other local college transfers to RIC, will this new policy make RIC less appealing than other options like URI? H. Shadoian said no, since URI requires that at least 50% of the major be completed there (they also require students to do their last 30 credits at the university). As mentioned above, this will not affect CCRI.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

#### **Special Education**

**Motion to Approve: 19-20-080** (Abbotson/McLaughlin)

- 19-20-080 Approve the creation of a new 3-credit course DIS 451 Introduction to Transition to Adult Life as an elective for related disciplines.

**Discussion:** G. Auger pointed out that the senior status is an important point to this proposal.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

#### **Academic Affairs**

**Motion to Approve: 19-20-081** (Abbotson/McLaughlin)

- 19-20-081 Approve a revision to the college's policy on what grade counts when a course is repeated, to allow it to be the highest one, rather than insisting the repeat has to count toward the GPA.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

#### **Academic Affairs**

**Motion to Approve: 19-20-082** (Abbotson/McLaughlin)

- 19-20-082 Approve a revision to the General Education second language requirement that will delete the language regarding the need for a minimum grade of C in any 102, 113, or 114 course they take, and allow for any passing grade above an "F." They request this go into effect in Spring 2020 and be retroactive for all currently enrolled students.

**Discussion:** T. Weinstein asked for a clarification: All general requirement classes may be filled with any grade other than F or W. This includes C-, D+, D, and D-. So this proposal is asking for this same policy to apply to Second Language classes as the general requirement? H. Shadoian confirmed yes. T Weinstein also asked if there is a general rationale for allowing grades of C-, D+, D, and D- in Second Language requirement classes to help to promote more students to graduate from RIC? H. Shadoian again confirmed, explaining, it helps in both graduation and time to degree. Ex. Student take a 101 language; takes a 102 and earns less than a C, but passes. That student will end up taking 12 credits of language courses to pass the requirement – that's equal to a full semester's tuition. At biggest risk are transfer students from CCRI who may not have taken a language since 10<sup>th</sup> grade in high school – if at all, since CCRI is open admission. Students who are a bit less comfortable taking a language sometimes hold off taking it until the end of their time at RIC and can then get into a bit of trouble. It's another reason to

have this applied retroactively to current students – 445 students earned a D, W or F in a 102 language and will have to repeat (and we don't have a count of the C- group who would then also meet the requirement.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

5. Any Other Business

- Progress reports from committee members on WID statements and Program Goals/Learning Goals on department/program websites.

REPORTS: (updates in red)

G. Auger: Art (BOTH DONE), Communication (BOTH DONE), Film Studies (GOALS DONE—working on WID)

T. Borgerding: Music, Theatre, and Dance [No report]

S. Abbotson: English (BOTH DONE), Modern Lang. (GOALS DONE—working on WID ), Liberal Studies (BOTH DONE), Africana Studies (GOALS DONE—working on WID ).

D. Espinosa: History (GOALS DONE—WID sent to COGE; **COGE not met since**), Philosophy (BOTH DONE), Global Studies (GOALS DONE—WID sent to COGE; **COGE not met since**), Gender and Women's Studies (GOALS DONE—but WID needs updating and not yet up, **it's being worked on**)

T. Weinstein: Psychology (BOTH DONE), Anthropology (GOALS DONE—WID in Progress), Environmental Studies (BOTH DONE), Chemical Dependency/Addiction (BOTH DONE).

S. Dixon: Political Science, Geography, Public Admin, Sociology, Justice Studies [No report]

D. Hewins: Biology (BOTH DONE), Medical Imaging and Health Sciences (both have GOALS, WID is in progress).

D. Abrahamson: Computer Science (BOTH DONE), Math (BOTHNDONE), Physics and Chemistry (E-mail sent but no response as yet, they have GOALS, but no WID), Data Science major (Homepage not yet created)

S. Zoll: Early Childhood (HAVE WID, no goals), Elementary Ed. (HAVE WID, no goals), and Special Ed. (no goals, WID statement with Mike).

J. Sawyer: **CPHP (GOALS DONE—WID completed being sent to Miker 4/20), Health and Physical Ed. (Health Ed. completed, Physical Ed. in progress), Wellness and Exercise Science (GOALS DONE— WID completed and waiting for upload).**

C. McLaughlin: Secondary Ed., K-12 Education—Tech, Art, Music, and World Languages, and Youth Development [With the responsibility of Accreditation work by all DES Faculty, WID and Outcomes on the DES website are in a stage of Draft and works in progress. The Chair has been discussing options with Mike and we'll get to it when we get through this new event.]

M. Aydogdu: Accounting (BOTH DONE), CIS (BOTH DONE), Finance (GOALS DONE—working on WID ), Economics . (GOALS DONE—working on WID ), HCA (BOTH DONE), Management (BOTH DONE), Marketing (BOTH DONE)

S. Ross: Nursing (BOTH DONE).

J. Diem: Social Work [No report]

Minutes Submitted by: Charlie McLaughlin and Sue Abbotson

