

Rhode Island College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Minutes for Meeting of October 21, 2011

2:00-4:00 P.M.

Board of Governors Room – Roberts Hall

Present: S. Abbotson (presiding); R. Auld; D. Blanchette; D. Espinosa; I. Greitzer; : A. Johnson; V. La Ferla; J. Magyar; C. Marco; C. McLaughlin (Secretary); P. Meyer; D. Huntley-Newby; M. Osei; R. Pitt; E. Rowell; T. Schmeling; E. Simson.
Absent: None.

Excused: M. Aydogdu; B. MacDonald; J. Meade

Guests: G. Rawson, R. Olmstead, D. Sugarman; E.J. Min; J. Zornado; E. Miller; R. Lindle; M. Brophy-Baer; R. Kim; D. Ciambrone; O. Juzyn; H. Dygert; M. Baker; E. Hall; W. Martin; R. Cvornyek; T. Brennan; P. Morenon.

1. Call to Order: 2:05
2. Approve Meeting Minutes: September 16, 2011 (Marco/Meyer)
Action: Minutes Approved – 1 abstention
3. Report of the Chair
 - A. Report on progress of enforcing prerequisites for 300/400 level courses
 - All 300 – 400 level courses have been checked to insure that these courses have prerequisites.
 - 300 – 400 level courses without prerequisites have been identified and reported to chairs of the program—all have agreed to instigate prerequisites as soon as possible.
 - The Catalog may now be updated to reflect the new course numbering guidelines the committee voted to approve last month, which stipulate that all 300/400 level course must have a prerequisite.
 - B. Courses that have not been taught for three years or more (update)
 - UCC Chair has received a 21 page list of classes not taught in the last three years. The list is being revised to remove topics, seminars, directed studies, and any courses that are on the list through error, and the amended list should be ready for the committee to see at our next meeting.
 - Once the committee has seen the list, it will be sent to chairs via their Deans to assess whether or not it is appropriate to have these remaining courses deleted from the catalog.
 - C. Electronic signatures
 - Inquiry has been made for the use of electronic signatures for documents needing signatures of approval and acknowledgement, but it will be a fairly complex system to instigate. More to follow when on-lie services have time to address the issue.
4. Report of COGE
Report is attached and was delivered before the discussion and vote on the proposed New General Education Program and the New First Year Seminar course.
5. New Business
 - Management**
Motion to Approve: (Blanchette/LaFerla)
 - 11-12-005 Revise MGT 329 title and description.
The new title and description accurately reflect what is taught in the course and use conventional terminology for the field of management.
Action: *Approved Unanimously*
 - Computed Tomography**
Motion to Approve: (McLaughlin/Rowell)
Motion to Bundle Documents 11-12-006 & 11-12-007: (Meyer/Rowell)

- 11-12-006 Approve CUS in Computed Tomography .
- 11-12-007 Approve new course CTSC 438.

Discussion: Eric Hall described the need to further revise the program. The Certificate of Undergraduate Studies in Computed Tomography is a 16 credit undergraduate program which allows students, who are certified in NMT or RT and hold an active license to practice in RI, to complete the certification requirements for Computed Tomography. This program includes the existing CTSC courses with the addition of one new course (CTSC 438 Registry Review; see below).

The CTSC 438 Registry Review is a required course for the certification of Computed Tomography Technologists. This course will prepare students for successful completion of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Advanced Certification Examination in Computed Tomography.

Action: Approved Unanimously

Medical Imaging

Motion to Approve: (Marco/LaFerla)

Motion to Bundle Documents 11-12-008 & 11-12-026: (Meyer/Marco)

- 11-12-008 Approve new concentration in Sonography for BS Medical Imaging.
- 11-12-009 Approve new course DMS 303.
- 11-12-010 Approve new course DMS 305.
- 11-12-011 Approve new course DMS 307.
- 11-12-012 Approve new course DMS 310.
- 11-12-013 Approve new course DMS 311.
- 11-12-014 Approve new course DMS 330.
- 11-12-015 Approve new course DMS 331.
- 11-12-016 Approve new course DMS 333.
- 11-12-017 Approve new course DMS 335.
- 11-12-018 Approve new course DMS 337.
- 11-12-019 Approve new course DMS 403.
- 11-12-020 Approve new course DMS 405.
- 11-12-021 Approve new course DMS 410.
- 11-12-022 Approve new course DMS 411.
- 11-12-023 Approve new course DMS 430.
- 11-12-024 Approve new course DMS 433.
- 11-12-025 Approve new course DMS 435.
- 11-12-026 Approve new course DMS 438.

Discussion: Eric Hall described that the program would help certified RTs earn a bachelor's degree in Medical Imagery while completing the certification requirements for Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Action: Approved Unanimously

Philosophy

Motion to Approve: (Schmeling/Magyar)

- 11-12-027 Revise prerequisites 300L PHIL courses.

Discussion: Glenn Rowson explained that after reviewing course listings in PHIL some 300 level classes did not have prerequisites. The revision requested to fix inconsistencies and aligns the program with the Gen Ed program.

Action: Approved Unanimously

Art

Motion to Approve and Bundle: (Schmeling/Greitzer)

- 11-12-028 Revise BFA Studio Art course requirements.
- 11-12-029 Revise BFA Studio Art, Art History requirements.

Discussion: Bill Martin informed the committee that the revisions provide clearer descriptions of the BA and BFA offered in Art. The revision for the Studio Arts and Art History requirements align the course

work to what is in actual practice in the Art Department. Students will have a wider selection of offerings and can explore other interests in the program.

Action: Approved Unanimously

History

Motion to Approve and Bundle: (McLaughlin/Greitzer)

- 11-12-030 Approve new course HIST 329.
- 11-12-031 Revise HIST 322 title and description.

Discussion: Robert Cvornyek and Elisa Miller described that the new course would fill the gap that exists between HIST 322 and HIST 323. The Civil War and Reconstruction course would also provide another option for liberal arts and secondary education majors to fulfill their U.S. history requirement. The HIST 322 title change more accurately reflects the content delivered in that class.

Action: Approved Unanimously

Political Science

Motion to Approve and Bundle Documents 11-12-032 - 11-12-039: (Meyer/Magyar)

- 11-12-032 Approve revised POL program.
- 11-12-033 Revise POL 202 additional credit.
- 11-12-034 Revise POL 203 additional credit.
- 11-12-035 Revise POL 204 additional credit.
- 11-12-036 Revise POL 300 additional credit and new description.
- 11-12-037 Approve new course POL 354.
- 11-12-038 Revise POL 446/346 renumbering
- 11-12-039 Revise POL 455/355 renumbering

Discussion: Thomas Schmeling described the reasons for revisions to the Political Science program curriculum. No changes had taken place in over 10 years. Students who enter the program arrived without Civics, therefore students required more time to cover pertinent information in their introductory classes. The proposed Political Methodology course brings the program into compliance with the American Political Science Association's guidelines that require computer competency and research methods.

Action: Approved Unanimously

Motion to Approve and Bundle Documents 11-12-040 - 11-12-053: (Magyar/Greitzer)

- 11-12-040 Revise POL 303 additional credit and prerequisite.
- 11-12-041 Revise POL 307 additional credit.
- 11-12-042 Revise POL 308 prerequisites.
- 11-12-043 Revise POL 309 additional credit.
- 11-12-044 Revise POL 331 description
- 11-12-045 Revise POL 342 additional credit.
- 11-12-046 Revise POL 353 additional credit.

Discussion: The additional requirement for writing at least two major research papers during the students course work is fulfilled with these revisions. Course descriptions are changed to better reflect a more contemporary program of study. Requiring a minimum GPA of 2.0 insures that student competence in Political Science.

Action: Approved Unanimously

Accounting

Motion to Approve: (LaFerla/Espinosa)

- 11-12-047 Revise ACCT 451 prerequisites.

Action: Approved Unanimously

General Education

Motion to Approve & Bundle 11-12-048 & 11-12-049: (Rowell/Marco)

- 11-12-048 Approve new General Education program.
- 11-12-049 Approve new course FYS 100.

Discussion: James Magyar provided a description and overview for the new program and the nature of the First Year Seminar (FYS 100) course.

After Dr. Magyar's overview, the UCC reviewed the document and discussed issues related to the new General Education requirements. Highlights of the discussion follow:

- Transfer students are not first year students; they will not be required to take the FYS.
- Advising information must be sent out to faculty ASAP; advisors must be aware of student progress in programs.
- Programs requirements are 120 credits, minimum.
- Students entering RIC in Fall 2012, will be advised to take FYS in their first or second semester, the first being more suitable for stronger students.
- Students entering RIC in 2012 will take the First Year Writing course in their first or second semester, but advisement will suggest that it should not normally be taken with FYS in the same semester.
- Implications for CCRI and URI agreements must be reviewed.
- Students currently enrolled at RIC will have opportunity to finish Core 3 & 4 courses; Connections classes could be used to fulfill these requirements in the future.
- Two Gen Ed programs will not be offered simultaneously; stragglers will be given other options to complete old general education requirements.
- Transition to the new program will eliminate Core 3 classes in 2013.
- Spring 2014 will begin the phase in of Connections courses; student will need 45 credits to be admitted to this course.
- All course outcomes are being re-examined to insure that columns in the matrix of new Gen. Ed program reflect a wide variety of outcomes across the program. One course should not address all of the outcomes.
- In the academic year 2013 – 2014, courses will transition from 3 credits to 4 credits. The UCC will not approve any Distribution Courses that have less than 4 credits.
- Programs will need to identify courses that assist students with developing writing skills of their discipline/major. The course is not included in the 40 hrs of general education courses.
- Second language outcomes can be achieved in a number of ways: Complete Language 101 – 102 or 110 with a grade of C or better. Transfer credits from another college or university. Students may take CLEP, AP, ATFL OPI, or SAT II tests to fulfill the requirement. Students will achieve “novice – mid” proficiency level on ACTFL scale.
- The first year of the new general education program will help determine what works and will help establish what courses should be offered in the future. The program has the flexibility to change if required.
- A friendly revision was made regarding the outcomes for Science Literacy:
Motion to Approve: Revision Suggested by Chris Marco

Suggestions for Revisions to the Scientific Literacy Outcome

Note: the first change is recommended to make the wording of the outcome consistent with the other outcomes. The second change is recommended to be inclusive of different types of qualitative and quantitative methodology (i.e. not just focus on experimentation)

Students will ~~achieve scientific literacy by studying the natural world;~~ understand how scientific knowledge is uncovered through ~~experimentation and the empirical testing~~ of hypotheses; be familiar with how data are analyzed, scientific models are made, theories are generated, and practical scientific problems are approached and solved; have the capacity to be informed about scientific matters as they pertain to living in this complex world; be able to communicate scientific knowledge through speaking and writing. (Scientific Literacy)

Action: Motion Passes; 1 abstention

- Identification of potential courses that would fit the FYS format.
- FYS courses will be offered under one course number, but each topic will receive a different section number.
- Courses should encourage cross-disciplinary thinking skills.

Action: Motion Passes; 1 abstention

6. Other New Business

- Need to look into the issue of blind prerequisites
- Need to request that Department chairs check program credit totals in various programs they offer—several errors are coming to light.

7. Motion to adjourn. (Pitt/Magyar) 4:10

**Report of the Committee on General Education
October 21, 2011**

In August 2010 VP Ron Pitt formed a General Education Task Force to propose revisions to the College's General Education program, as called for by Vision 2015. The Task Force comprised representatives from all the schools in the College and was chaired by Maureen Reddy.

Informed by the NEASC standards for General Education and insights from working with a consultant from the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), they researched other programs. They collected and analyzed comments and suggestions from the Rhode Island College community submitted electronically and in several meetings that were carefully crafted to draw out ideas. As the proposal took form, it had repeated review by the faculty.

Finally, in May, 2011, a report was presented to COGE for a new General Education program. This program had clearly articulated learning outcomes, a core comprising First Year Writing, First Year Seminar, a more advanced Connections course, writing in the disciplines, and a set of distribution requirements.

COGE held an initial meeting in the spring, chaired by Professor Laura Cooley, then worked intensely over the summer to be sure that the proposal is one that the College can implement with excellence.

On September 14, COGE hosted a Faculty Forum to a packed house in Clarke Science 128, where we presented the proposed program and sought comments from those present. One area that stood out that day was a simultaneous strong desire for a foreign language component to the program and deep concern that such a requirement would be a strain on students and on College resources. Some commenters even held both opinions at once!

The proposal we have before us today includes First Year Writing, a First Year Seminar, the Connections course, a College Language Requirement at a level that can be managed, and a distribution that includes Literature, History, the Arts, Mathematics, Social Science, Science, and Advanced Scientific/Quantitative Reasoning. Writing in the Discipline is a component that comes from the departments.

Though it is not part of the formal proposal, we have included a sketch of how the program can be implemented. First Year Writing and First Year Seminar would be available for students beginning in Fall 2012. After a year of transition, the new program would be in place and the present program phased out. The College does not intend to run two General Education Programs in parallel, but rather to make a rapid transition to the new program.

Educational values drove the design of this program, with the concurrent need to provide an Outcomes Assessment plan a constant consideration. We have associated the outcomes with courses and designated which outcomes will be assessed earliest and most frequently. Courses that are accepted for the new program will include assessment plans for the General Education outcomes using COGE rubrics.

The proposal before us today contains the structure for the new program and a course proposal for First Year Seminar. Proposals for First Year Writing, History, and Literature are expected for November.

I am excited about the potential of this program to engage Rhode Island College students, to strengthen the first year experience, to improve writing, language and quantitative skills. The program offers more choice in the distribution and for the first time includes advanced work in the General Education program. It's a good program for Rhode Island College in 2011 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Magyar
Chair, COGE