

**Rhode Island College Curriculum Committee**  
**Minutes for Meeting of**  
17 May, 2013

**PART ONE**

2:00-2:20 P.M.

*This initial meeting is for all Undergraduate Curriculum Committee members who **will be** serving during the 2013-2014 academic year. If this is your final meeting you do not need to arrive until 2.20pm*

- Call to Order: 2:07
  - Welcome new members, Pat Cordeiro, Bonnie MacDonald, Carol Cummings, and Karen Castagno to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and explain responsibilities.
  - Accept nominations to the 2013-2014 Executive Undergraduate Curriculum Committee in the categories of Chair, Secretary, and two further members.
    - Nomination for Chairperson - Susan Abbottson (La Ferla/Marco)
    - Nomination for Secretary – Charlie McLaughlin (Dixon/Marco)
    - Nomination for Executive Committee members – Bonnie McDonald and Vivian La Ferla (Marco/Dixon)

Motion to Vote (Marco/Dixon)

- Vote for Chair – Susan Abbottson  
**Action:** Approved Unanimously
- Vote for Secretary – Charlie McLaughlin  
**Action:** Approved Unanimously
- Vote for two further members of the Executive Committee
- Vivian La Ferla  
**Action:** Approved Unanimously
- Bonnie McDonald  
**Action:** Approved Unanimously

- Other New Business
    - Areas of concern for next year:
      - Facilitation of catalog copy generation with new CMS
      - Response to COOL: UCC guidelines for Hybrid/Online courses
- Discussion concerned important topics that will be reviewed next year. Susan requested members send ideas and concerns for the fall meetings.

3. Motion to adjourn. 2:15

*At this point members whose service begins with the 2013-2014 UCC have the choice to either stay to observe the committee at work, or they are welcome to leave.*

## PART TWO

2:20-4:00 P.M. Board of Governors Room

*This meeting is for all Undergraduate Curriculum Committee members who have been serving during the 2012-2013 academic year (and those whose service will continue)*

**Present:** S. Abbotson (presiding); M. Aydogdu; D. Blanchette; S. Breen; S. Dixon; M. Horn; R. Kirkwood-Auld; V. La Ferla; H. Magen; C. Marco; C. McLaughlin (Secretary); S. Mueller; R. Pitt; E. Simson; S. Spinette; P. Thomas

**Guests:** S. Dell; V. Freyermuth; M. Baker; E. Bigler; K. Castagno; E. Rowell; R. Clark; C. McKamey; M. Arthur.

**Excused:** J. Magyar; D. Espinosa

**Student Representatives:** Excused

**Absent:**

1. Call to Order: 2:20
2. Motion to Approve: (La Ferla/Marco)  
UCC meeting minutes for April 19, 2013  
**Action:** Approved Unanimously
3. Report of the Chair
  - Results of UCC Election
    - Susan Abottson – Chairperson
    - Charlie McLaughlin – Secretary
    - Vivian La Ferla – Executive Committee Member
    - Bonnie McDonald - Executive Committee Member
    - Thanks to Christine Marco for her service to the Executive Committee
  - Changes to form for next year.
    - Working to make the proposal form easier to use; need suggestions for what works and what needs to be improved.
    - Recent changes need to be reviewed
    - Will need to update catalog copy instructions to adjust for the new CMS system
  - Agenda items for 2013-2014
    - Working with COOL (Committee on On-line Learning)
    - Create catalog course descriptions that make Hybrid and On-line class offerings more apparent and work on possible curriculum guidelines for the creation of such courses.
4. Annual Report of COGE
  - [http://www.ric.edu/curriculum\\_committee/pdf/COGE2013annual.pdf](http://www.ric.edu/curriculum_committee/pdf/COGE2013annual.pdf)
5. Annual Report of Writing Board
  - [http://www.ric.edu/curriculum\\_committee/pdf/WBReportMay2013.pdf](http://www.ric.edu/curriculum_committee/pdf/WBReportMay2013.pdf)
6. Annual Report of Student Designed Majors
  - [http://www.ric.edu/curriculum\\_committee/pdf/StudentDesignedMajorsAnnual12-13.pdf](http://www.ric.edu/curriculum_committee/pdf/StudentDesignedMajorsAnnual12-13.pdf)
7. Annual report from Director of Honors
  - [http://www.ric.edu/curriculum\\_committee/pdf/Honorsannual2013.pdf](http://www.ric.edu/curriculum_committee/pdf/Honorsannual2013.pdf)
8. Old Business

**MATH**

**Motion to Bundle and Approve with 12-13-117** (La Ferla/Dixon)

  - 12-13-116 Revise MATH 240, add a credit and change description. GE M.

- 12-13-117 Revise SE MATH major, switch CSCI cognate to one with more suitable content.

**Discussion:** This request is made in order to change Math 240 – Statistical Methods I, from a 3 to a 4 credit course so that it can be offered in the new General Education program as a distribution course in Mathematics. Inclusion of materials on probability and hypothesis testing will increase the coverage of probability and counting techniques in greater detail. This will better prepare students for the calculation of discrete probability distributions.

*SE MATH:* Request made to replace cognate CSCI 201 with CSCI 157. This change in cognate reflects the recent change in course content for. These changes include a relatively new programming language, Python. Secondary education students are more likely to encounter this language as a primary language in their careers as teachers.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### **Grading System**

**Motion to Approve** (Magen/Thomas)

- 12-13-119 Add S, U, (and H) to course descriptions on all courses that only grade using these.

**Discussion:** Given that courses graded S/U/H often operate under different rules in terms of what can be allowed toward overall credit count, the Executive UCC felt it would be beneficial to students to be able to easily identify these courses by having them listed as such in the college catalog.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

## 9. New Business

### **GEN ED**

**Motion to Bundle and Approve** 12-13-120 - 12-13-122 (La Ferla/Kirkwood-Auld)

- 12-13-120 Revise GED 264, description and when offered. GE C.
- 12-13-121 Revise (ELED 261) into GED 265 GE C. ELED 261 to be deleted.
- 12-13-122 Approve new course: GED 268 Bullying Viewed from Multicultural Lifespan Perspectives GE C.

**Discussion:** GED 264 and GED 265: These existing courses were revised to meet the Connections requirements.

GED 268 This NEW course meets the Connections emphasis on comparative perspectives by focusing on bullying through the lifespan, within and across cultures in different countries.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### **Gender Studies**

**Motion to Approve** (Marco/Horn)

- 12-13-123 Approve new course GEND 261 Resisting Authority: Girls of Fictional Futures GE C.

**Discussion:** This interdisciplinary course connects gender studies with English studies and sociology, creating a linkage between social and behavioral sciences and the humanities. This focus on becoming critical consumers of stories and culture is an important aspect of a liberal education, and thus meets the requirements of the Connections outcomes.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### **English**

**Motion to Approve** (Marco/Simson)

- 12-13-124 Approve ENGL 118E, an updated offering for EEP English.

**Discussion:** Proposal requests opportunity to offer a literature course at the high schools in our EEP program, but does not want the course to count for the GenEd literature category at RIC.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### **Sociology**

**Motion to Bundle and Approve with 12-13-133** (Dixon/Horn)

- 12-13-125 Approve new course: SOC 267 Comparative Perspectives on Higher Education GE C.

**Discussion:** This course is being proposed to meet the requirements of the new Connections category in the new general education program. This course will provide students with a comparative and interdisciplinary exploration of contemporary and historical issues in higher education. It will use the RIC experience as a case study for analyzing current controversies around colleges and universities through guest lectures, multimedia projects, and frequent reflective and analytical writing experiences.

(#133) SOC 302 This revision adds an additional prerequisite, the completion of the general education distribution requirement in mathematics, to the SOC 302 course. The change will ensure that students are better prepared to tackle the tasks in quantitative reasoning and enables the course to meet the criteria for the general education distribution category in Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### ***Anthropology***

#### ***Motion to Bundle and Approve with 12-13-144*** (Dixon/Horn)

- 12-13-126 Revise ANTH 215 to add a credit hour.

**Discussion:** This requested change will increase the ANTH 215 from 3 to 4 credit hours. The increase in credit hours will provide more time to integrate writing instruction with regard to the term paper, and allow an additional step in the writing process between the annotated bibliography and the rough draft.

The proposed increase in credit hours in ANTH 205 will provide class time needed for group work and the incorporation of relevant media resources. It will also enable the expansion of the topics considered, which is crucial for themes of such wide-ranging significance.

\*\* Committee had discussion regarding the standard/criteria used to move a 3 credit class to 4 credits. Are there any department standards that are used to make this change? What is the curriculum standard for increasing to an additional credit? Can UCC establish a better system for setting a standard for a one credit increase in 3 credit classes?

How can Hybrid class credits be measured?

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### ***Special Education***

#### ***Motion to Bundle and Approve 12-13-127 through 12-13-131***

- 12-13-127 Revise SPED 419, title and possible credit hour range.
- 12-13-128 Revise SPED 435, just title.
- 12-13-129 Revise SPED 436, just title.
- 12-13-130 Revise SPED 437, title and possible credit hour range.
- 12-13-131 Revise SPED 438, just title.

**Discussion:** Recent state certification changes require a subtle change in the title of these courses. The change in credits enables RIC teacher candidates to pursue two special education certifications and reflects the number of hours spent in the revised student teaching placements.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### ***Biology***

#### ***Motion to Bundle and Approve with 12-13-136*** (La Ferla/Marco)

- 12-13-132 Revise BIOL and CHEM 421 title change (cross-listed).

**Discussion:** The proposed title will replace the original title without changing the content or the numbering of the course BIOL 421. The new prerequisite for HSCI 232 will offer students an expanded choice for classes offerings.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### ***Sociology (Bundled with 12-13-125)***

- 12-13-133 Revise SOC 302, change prerequisite. GE AQSR.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### ***Art***

#### ***Motion to Approve*** (Horn/Magen)

- 12-13-134 Approve new course ART 210 Nurturing Artistic & Musical Development GE. A.

**Discussion:** As an elective, this will offer an interesting new way for students to fulfill their Gen Ed. Arts requirement, and it will become a cognate for ELED majors.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

## **Theater**

### **Motion to Approve** (Horn/La Ferla)

- 12-13-135 Revise THTR 261, prerequisite, and when offered. GE. C.

**Discussion:** This connections course provides the opportunity for all students from liberal arts departments to complement their major course of study with exposure to the history, literature, and practice of Black theatre

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### **Health Sciences (Bundled with 12-13-132)**

- 12-13-136 HSCI 232 prerequisite change.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

## **Geography**

### **Motion to Bundle and Approve 12-13-137 – 12-13-143** (Dixon/Marco)

- 12-13-137 Revise GEOG 100, add credit. GE. SB.
- 12-13-138 Revise GEOG 101, add credit. GE. SB.
- 12-13-139 Revise GEOG 200 add credit and change title (renumber from GEOG 400), delete GEOG 400. GE. SB.
- 12-13-140 Revise GEOG 201 change prerequisite. GE. AQSR
- 12-13-141 Revise GEOG 205 add credit and change prerequisite, also delete cross-listing with PSCI 205. Delete the previously cross-listed PSCI 205. GE. AQSR.
- 12-13-142 Revise GEOG 206 renumber from GEOG 300 (which can be deleted), change description wording, prerequisite, and when offered. GE. SB.
- 12-13-143 Revise GEOG 261, description, title, prerequisite, and when offered. Also move hybrid. GE. C.

**Discussion:** Proposals request the addition of one credit to several classes in order to remain compliant with the SB requirements of GENED. Classes will be longer allowing deeper exploration into more content. The change in credits and title of GEOG 400 reflects the level of the students for whom the class was designed; title change better reflects the course content.

GEOG 201: The Department seeks no changes to this course other than its designation as an AQSR option in the General Education Program and the addition of a prerequisite: satisfying the General Education Mathematics Requirement.

GEOG 205: Course was revised so that it continues to meet the Gen. Ed. course credit-hour criterion, which is now 4 credits; expand and align the content with the criteria of the new Gen. Ed. "AQSR" category; and delete the cross-listing of the course as PSCI 205.

GEOG 206 is a good fit for the "SB" category of the General Education Program. Deleting GEOG 300 and creating a new 200 level class that does not need a prerequisite will allow more regularity for offering this class.

GEOG 261 This proposal adapts a Gen Ed. Core 4 course for consideration as a new Gen Ed. Connections course. The rationale is to preserve for students the choice of a social science course with an international, comparative, urban geographic emphasis in the Gen. Ed. Program listings.

*\*\*Can credit change be justified by stating it will create more exposure to content? What are the content additions that UCC should pay attention to in the future?*

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### **Anthropology (Bundled with 12-13-126)**

- 12-13-144 Revise ANTH 205, title, description, add a credit hour and change when offered. GE. SB.
- **Action:** Approved Unanimously

## **Music**

### **Motion to Bundle and Approve 12-13-145 – 12-13-147** (Horn/Kirkwood-Auld)

- 12-13-145 Revise MUS 201, add a credit hour, change description. GE. A.
- 12-13-146 Revise MUS 203, add a credit hour. GE. A.
- 12-13-147 Revise MUS 225, add a credit hour and change description. GE. A.

**Discussion:** The revised MUS 201 course will introduce more writing assignments that challenge creative and critical thinking. The course will now include an "Arts" outcome for those students who wish to demonstrate their original creativity.

MUS 203: Students will experience the art and science of turning aural material into written material, based on the common practice period of Western Europe from 1600 to 1750. A one hour on-line component is expected to be completed by students in this class.

MUS 225: The revision of History of Jazz (MUS 225) aligns it with several institutional initiatives. The revision will introduce *more writing assignments* that challenge creative and critical thinking. The course will now include an “Arts” outcome for those students who wish to demonstrate their original creativity.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### ***Social Studies***

***Motion to Approve*** (McLaughlin/La Ferla)

- 12-13-148 Revise SE Social Studies, to drop one HIST course.

**Discussion:** The requirement to take “HIST 361 (Seminar in History) or HIST 362 (Reading Seminar in History) with a grade of C or higher” is to be deleted. This deletion is in response to changes in the History Department course credits; all courses are moving to 4 credits.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### ***History***

***Motion to Approve*** (Dixon/Marco)

- 12-13-149 Approve new course HIST 275 Russia from Beginning to End. GE. C.

**Discussion:** History 275 “Russia from Beginning to End,” is a new general education course that fulfills the Connections requirements and emphasizes themes of indigenous development, cross-cultural and cross-national influences, comparativism, and global interaction and how they have affected nearly 1200 years of Eastern Slavic, later Russian, development.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

### ***Elementary Education***

- 12-13-150 Revise ELED BA content majors.

**Discussion:** FAS departments revised content majors in English, General Science, Social Studies, and Math. These revised majors will serve students who would like to teach elementary grades with a particular content focus and/or who would like to be eligible to seek middle grades certification (grades 5-8). These revisions will also decrease credit load to offset FAS course credit increases from 3 to 4 credits. FAS also constructed a new “Multidisciplinary studies” content major. This new major will serve students seeking preparation towards teaching all subjects in grades 1-6.

- **Action:** Approved Unanimously

### ***Political Science***

- 12-13-151 Revise POL 263, to create POL 267, new title, description and prerequisite. (Delete old POL 263 listing). GE. C.

**Discussion:** The proposal converts an existing core 4 general education course into a Connections course under the new General Education curriculum.

**Action:** Approved Unanimously

## 10. Other New Business

- Thanks to departing committee members: Robin Auld, Harriet Magen, David Blanchette, and Martha Horn for their valuable service.
- Motion to adjourn. 3:21 (McLaughlin/La Ferla)

Have a Safe Summer Break!