Rhode Island College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Minutes

21 Oct 2016
2:00-4:00 P.M.
CL 255

Members Present: S. Abbotson (Chair), S. Breene, C. Cummings, S. Dixon, D. Espinosa, J. Magyar, C. Marco, S. Mueller, R. Pitt, S. Ross, E. Simson, G. Stillwell

Student Members: J.Boutin;

Members Excused: P. Cordeiro, D. Halquist, B. MacDonald, C. McLaughlin (Secretary)

Guests: R. Auld, K. Castagno; C. McKamey

1. Call to Order: 2:15 pm

2. NOTE: minutes from May '16 meeting were approved via email

3. Report of the Chair
   - Discussion about new project: Identifying courses that involve experiential learning. A definition of experiential learning was shared, and a list of courses was provided. More notes about the discussion are provided below.
   - Most Academic RhodeMaps have been completed. Just need TECH ED., ARTE, and SWRK
   - S. Abbotson is waiting to hear from Deans about courses not offered for 3 years and up for possible deletion (62 flagged; 1 SON, 3 SWRK, 6 SOM, 6 FSEHD, and 46 FAS). If needed, a proposal will be brought to the November meeting.

4. Monthly Reports:
   - COGE: A report is available on the assessment of papers that was led by M. Reddy over the summer. An open forum discussion was held; they would like to move from a focus on improve the assessment process to understanding what has been learned from assessment.
   - Writing Board: A report was submitted that included the June workshop, the first pages reading event, and plans for the next faculty development in January.

5. Old Business (none)

6. New Business
   - 16-17-001 Approve new course YDEV 300 Introduction to Youth Development and revise the YDEV program to require this new course (Magyar; Mueller).   Approved unanimously.

   - 16-17-002 Approve revision to SOC 345: course description (Dixon; Cummings). Approved unanimously.

   - 16-17-003 Approve new course HPE 345 Wellness for the Young Child and revise the ECED program to require this new course (Cummings; Stillwell). Approved unanimously.

7. Other New Business: Discussion of experiential learning at RIC

   - The impetus was to identify what RIC does that's unique compared to other schools in the area.
   - A draft of the RIC draft definition of "experiential learning" was shared. One suggestion was to identify subcategories that could be teased out, and how those subcategories might be classified. Two broad dimensions seemed to emerge from the discussion: Location of the work (on vs. off-campus) and degree of student self-directedness (e.g., activities determined by faculty vs. independent study). Other questions raised were whether the information could be incorporated into assessment, and whether it could be leveraged on a statewide level. One suggestion regarding language was that "traditional lecture format" could be considered somewhat loaded language; perhaps just call it "lecture format."
   - A chart was shared listing courses by program. It still is a work in progress. The chart identified courses in three areas: (a) required capstone, (b) other required courses, and (c) elective courses. Suggestions included asking department chairs to identify key elements of the course, and what students were expected to learn.
   - Next steps: Ask department chairs to review the table of courses we developed to confirm its accuracy.

8. Motion to adjourn (Magyar; Abbotson): 3:05.