

Rhode Island College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Minutes for the Meeting of 20 Oct. 2017
2:00-4.00 P.M.
Building 9 Room 005

Members Present: S. Abbotson (Chair), G. Auger, Ian Greitzer, J. Burke, C. Cummings, S. Dixon, D. Espinosa, J. Hamilton, J. Magyar, C. Marco, C. McLaughlin (Secretary), S. Mueller, S. Ross, E. Simson, G. Stillwell, J. Wu, S. Zoll

Student Members: Sarah Hackworth; Anthony Diebold

Members Excused: S. Pearlmutter

Guests: Linda Mendonca, Nursing; Mike Michaud, English--Writing Board

1. **Call to Order:** 2:07

2. **Motion to Approve Minutes for Meeting held on May 10, 2017.** (Marco/Cummings)

Action: Approved with 5 abstaining

3. **Report of the Chair**

- RhodeMaps update.
 - All Maps have been replaced with updated links
 - Maps also reflect all changes approved last year by UCC
- Website update.
 - There are multiple problems with the new UUC website,
 - Issues are being worked on as the transition to Sharepoint has not been very smooth
 - i. The site may no longer be searchable
 - ii. The archives are not available – Decisions from the past cannot be reviewed
 - iii. Only partial documentation is available even for the past year
 - iv. Can only access archived site documents privately while on campus; not available off campus or to the public
 - v. The old system automatically sent out e-mails to those who needed to be informed that a document had been approved all the way down the line—the new system does not.
 - vi. Suggestion to look at other schools using Cloud-based linked systems; current RIC system has created a huge number of broken links that makes the website seem very unprofessional.
- 63 Courses have not been taught in 3 years
 - i. Some of these courses may have been offered in other forms – (Independent Studies), or attempted by cancelled due to low enrollments, or necessary to keep open for requirements/coverage
 - ii. Chairs have been asked by Deans to review Excel sheet developed by Sue Abbotson and to report on which courses need keeping by first Friday in November. All others should be prepared for deletion.
- New catalog is now available; will be mailed to faculty shortly
- NEW PROPOSAL FORMS ARE READY FOR USE

4. **Monthly Reports:**

Complete Reports can be found at:

http://www.ric.edu/curriculum_committee/Pages/Annual-Reports.aspx

- COGE
- Writing Board

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

Nursing

Motion to Bundle and Approve 17-18-001 – 17-18-003 (Ross/Greitzer)

- 17-18-001 Approve revision of prerequisite of NURS 207.
- 17-18-002 Approve revision of prerequisite of NURS 316.
- 17-18-003 Approve revision of prerequisite of NURS 376.

Discussion: Request to approve revision of prerequisites for three nursing courses in order to establish student eligibility to register for them, and what courses are necessary to have completed. #001: NURS 207 should indicate “Licensed RN students and Nursing RN BSN IM, or consent of program director.” #020: NURS 316 should indicate “Acceptance to the RN-BSN Program; completion of NURS 207 and NURS 225.” #003: NURS 376 “RN-BSN student; completion of MURS 370 or consent of program director.”

Action: Approved Unanimously

Motion to Approve: The responsibility of UCC discipline representatives to have oversight for the implementation of Writing in the Discipline and Experiential Learning descriptions on respective departmental/program websites. (Ross/Greitzer)

- Proposal to have the broader committee oversee departmental implementation of WID and Experiential Learning descriptions on their websites.

Discussion:

- UCC representatives will encourage Chairs/Directors to include information related to WID and Experiential Learning on the sidebar of the department/programs’ websites. (grey area on the left side of all department/program homepages).
- UCC representatives will confirm that each program has a simple statement identifying the requirements and purpose of WID and Experiential Learning in their programs
- UCC representatives will not write these descriptions
- On notice that COGE is asking for WID updates, hold off on this until COGE give the green light
- On notice that VPAA/Provost is forming Experiential Learning committee, also hold off on this until have more information.

Action: Approved Unanimously

Provost/VPAA Josh Hamilton to discuss course credits at RIC.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

- What does Experiential Learning mean to each department/program?
- Committee to be formed to complete a number of tasks related to Experiential Learning (EL)
- Committee will inventory the RIC faculty and courses to determine where EL is taking place on campus. S. Abbotson pointed out that the UCC did create and pass through Council an official college definition of this last year, which made Experiential Learning a requirement at the college for all students, and created an interim program-by-program chart of which current courses satisfy this requirement (both required and elective). The hope is that the new committee will build on this rather than start from scratch.

3credit/4 credit Model

- We need to be one or the other
- Models across US favor the 4 cr .model – Provost also favors the 4cr. model
- Challenges for students within programs that utilize a mix of 3 and 4 credit courses.
- Problems for institution are Capacity and Resources
 - Need to create networks to build capacity
 - Govt. / Grant / Non-profit programs
- Looking at Block Schedule to accommodate student schedules – ideal is for students to take 4 x 4cr classes
- FAS has a majority of 4 cr. Courses
- Nursing and Education have many 3 cr. courses
- SWRK have been working on a program revision (as yet to be submitted to UCC) that will include a mix of 4, 3 and 2 credit courses out of necessity (for example, much fieldwork needs to conform to the 3 credit time limits), and were assured this could be accommodated, especially by doubling up 2 credit courses into a four hour time slot.
- Monday through Thursday Schedules
 - With Fridays for – Internships, Observations, Field trips, Research, etc.
- Looking at better use of EMS – Not being used to its full potential now.
 - Will be used to create student schedules
 - Spring '18 will be used to train on EMS – EMS will run in parallel with existing paper system to work out problems
 - Creating time blocks will create harmony within the daily/weekly schedule for students so they are not left with hours of wasted time between classes.
- Faculty will be assigned course schedule and times to meet those courses. Will no longer have the option of setting times/preferences for courses. Exceptions might be made under extenuating circumstances. THIS WILL BE A STUDENT CENTERED SYSTEM.
- Moving from 3 credits to 4 credits will require revisiting what a student should look like at different stages within the program.. This is especially true during senior year.
- Conversions will require us to reformulate curriculum and the outcomes for a degree.
- Will work with CCRI Associate degrees – many of those who come to RIC will be rising Juniors. Need to work on pathways to RIC.

7. ***Motion to adjourn.*** 3:45 (Magyar/McLaughlin)