

Rhode Island College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee  
Minutes for the Meeting of  
December 15, 2017 - 2:00 - 4.00 P.M.  
Building 9 Room 005

**Members Present:** S. Abbotson (Chair), J. Burke, C. Cummings, S. Dixon, D. Espinosa, J. Magyar, C. Marco, C. McLaughlin (Secretary), S. Pearlmutter, S. Ross, G. Stillwell, J. Wu, S. Zoll

**Student Members:** S. Hackworth

**Members Excused:** A. Diebold, G. Auger, I. Greitzer, S. Mueller, E. Simson

**Members Absent:** J. Hamilton,

**Guests:** Lisa Bain, ACCT/CIS; Dante Del Giudice, PSCE; Thomas Schmeling, POL; D. Ciambrone, SOC; Qian Li, Math/CS

1. Call to Order: 2:07
2. Motion to Approve Minutes: 17 November 2017.  
Action: Approved. (1 Abstention)
3. Report of the Chair
  - Website update.  
Nothing to update; archive still missing – Students may be hired to assist with uploading data to the website.
4. Annual Report:
  - Continuing Ed. and Summer Sessions
    - Please review Dante's report on the webpage:  
[http://www.ric.edu/curriculum\\_committee/Pages/Annual-Reports.aspx](http://www.ric.edu/curriculum_committee/Pages/Annual-Reports.aspx)
5. Monthly Reports:
  - COGE – See report at: [http://www.ric.edu/curriculum\\_committee/Pages/Annual-Reports.aspx](http://www.ric.edu/curriculum_committee/Pages/Annual-Reports.aspx)
  - Writing Board - No Report this month
6. Old Business
  - Updates on Active Learning, 3 to 4 credits, and Experiential Learning Committees  
**Discussion:** No News from VPAA
7. New Business
  - Sociology**  
**Motion to Approve 17-18-013** (Marco/Magyar)
    - 17-18-013 Approve the creation of a new elective course: SOC 321 Sociology of the Body.  
**Discussion:** Approve a new Sociology course SOC 321 Sociology of the Body as a free elective for anyone with the prerequisite "any 200 level Sociology course or by consent."  
**Action:** Unanimously Approved
  - Communication**  
**Motion to Approve 17-18-014** (Burke/Cummings)
    - 17-18-014 Approve revision to the cognates for COMM concentration in Speech, Language and Hearing Science to switch PHYS 101 to PHYS 110.  
**Discussion:** Approve a revision to the cognates for COMM concentration in Speech Language and Hearing Science to switch PHYS 101 to PHYS 110; content is more appropriate for the program.  
**Action:** Unanimously Approved

### **English**

#### **Motion to Approve 17-18-015** (Espinosa/Magyar)

- 17-18-015 Approve revision of the prerequisite for ENGL 315 Literature, Environment and Ecocriticism, to become “ENGL 202 or ENST 200.”

**Discussion:** Requests approval for a revision to the prerequisites for ENGL 315 Literature, Environment and Ecocriticism to become “ENGL 202 or ENST 200” to ensure English majors are also able to take the course.

**Action:** Unanimously Approved

### **Sociology**

#### **Motion to Bundle and Approve 17-18-016 & 17-18-017** (Espinosa/Cummings)

- 17-18-016 Approve revision to the prerequisite of SOC 404 to delete POL 300 as an option to become, “Any 200-level sociology course; SOC 302; and any Gen. Ed. Mathematics course, or consent of department chair.”
- 17-18-017 Requests approval of revisions to the prerequisite of SOC 460 to add SOC 300, make SOC 400 potentially concurrent and update the necessary credit hours, to become, “20 credit hours of sociology courses, including SOC 300, SOC 404, and concurrent enrollment in or completion of SOC 400, and a minimum 2.0 G.P.A., or consent of department chair.”

**Discussion:** Approve revisions to the prerequisites of SOC 404 and 460 to allow for better sequencing so that students can complete these required courses in a timely fashion. #016 would like the prerequisite of SOC 404 to delete POL 300 as an option and become, “Any 200-level sociology course; SOC 302; and any Gen. Ed. Mathematics course, or consent of department chair.” #017 would like the prerequisite of SOC 460 to add SOC 300, make SOC 400 potentially concurrent and update the necessary credit hours, to become, “20 credit hours of sociology courses, including SOC 300, SOC 404, and concurrent enrollment in or completion of SOC 400, and a minimum 2.0 G.P.A., or consent of department chair.”

**Action:** Unanimously Approved

### **Health and Physical Education**

#### **Motion to Approve 17-18-018** (Cummings/Marco)

- 17-18-018 Approve revision to the prerequisite of HPE 411 Kinesiology to reflect changes in the PE and Community Health and Wellness concentration in Wellness Movement Studies majors: new prerequisite to read: “BIOL 231, HPE 313 (for PE majors) or HPE 278 (for CHW-WMS majors) and admission to the Feinstein School of Education & Human Development or consent of department chair.”

**Discussion:** Approve revision to the prerequisites of HPE 411 Kinesiology to accommodate the deletion of a course no longer offered and replace this with courses more suited to the PE and Community Health and Wellness-concentration in Wellness and Movement Studies programs that require this course. Dance also currently uses it, but is planning on dropping in the near future.

**Action:** Unanimously Approved

### **Computer Science**

#### **Motion to Approve 17-18-019** (Burke/Magyar)

- 17-18-019 Approve revision of CSCI 437 to become Network Architectures and Programming, which means an update to the title and description, and the addition of a credit hour.

**Discussion:** Requests approval for revisions to CSCI 437 to retitle it Network Architectures and Programming, revise the description and add a credit hour to bring it to four credits so that additional current topics can be added to the course.

**Action:** Unanimously Approved

- 17-18-020 Withdrawn.

### **Computer Information Systems**

**Motion to Bundle and Approve 17-18-021 & 17-18-038** (Marco/Cummings)

- 17-18-021 Approve revisions to the Computer Information Systems major program.
- 17-18-022 Approve revisions to the Computer Information Systems minor program.
- 17-18-023 Approve revisions to the Computer Information Systems major program.
- 17-18-024 Approve the deletion of CIS 251 and the revision of Accounting (major and minor), Finance, HCA, all three Management concentrations and Marketing as all need to replace CIS 251 and CIS 352 with CIS 252.
- 17-18-025 Approve a revision to CIS 352 Management Information Systems to change the number and title to become CIS 252 Introduction to Information Systems, also revise the prerequisite to just be 30 credit hours.
- 17-18-026 Approve the deletion of CIS 255 Introduction to Java in Business, CIS 256 Introduction to COBOL Programming, CIS 257 Introduction to visual basic in Business, CIS 355 Advanced Business Applications in Java, and CIS 357 Advanced Business Applications in Visual Basic (to be replaced by new more flexible programming options).
- 17-18-027 Approve the deletion of CIS 453 Systems Analysis and Design (needed material from this will be merged into the revised CIS 461).
- 17-18-028 Approve the revision of the prerequisite of CIS 320 Information Tech: HardWare and SoftWare Systems, and add an additional credit.
- 17-18-029 Approve the revision of CIS 324 Web Design and Development, CIS 350 Special Topics, CIS 351 Advanced Office Applications in Business, CIS 358 Mobile Application Development—add a credit and update prerequisites.
- 17-18-030 Approve an update to the prerequisites for CIS 416 Human-Computer Interaction Design, to add CIS 252 as an alternative to CIS 352. (Also affects the cross-listed CSCI 416)
- 17-18-031 Approve an update to the prerequisite for both CIS 421 Networks and Infrastructure and CIS 440 Issues in Computer Security to make both “CIS 252 or CIS 352, and the completion of at least 60 college credits,” and add a credit hour to each.
- 17-18-032 Approve revisions to the prerequisite of CIS 455 Database Programming to become “CIS 252 or CIS 352 and completion of 60 college credits, or consent of department chair.”
- 17-18-033 Approve revisions to CIS 462 Applied Software Development Project, to incorporate elements of the deleted CIS 453. The new prerequisite will be “CIS 301, CIS 255, CIS 256, or CIS 257 and CIS 455, or consent of department chair” and the course will be increased to 4 credits.
- 17-18-034 Approve an update to the prerequisites of 470 Introduction to Data Science and CIS 472 Data Visualization to add CIS 252 as an alternative to CIS 352, thus become “CIS 252 or CIS 352 and MATH 248, or consent of department chair.”
- 17-18-035 Approve a correction to the prerequisite that has the wrong program name and add a credit hour to CIS 491 Independent Study I.
- 17-18-036 Approve the addition of a credit hour to CIS 490 Directed Study and CIS 492 Independent Study II.
- 17-18-037 Approve a new course: CIS 301 Introduction to Computer Programming in Business.
- 17-18-038 Approve a new course: CIS 302 Intermediate Computer Programming in Business.

**Discussion:** For a description of this bundled proposal please review the Monthly Actions for December at: [http://www.ric.edu/curriculum\\_committee/documents/UCCActionFormDec2017.pdf](http://www.ric.edu/curriculum_committee/documents/UCCActionFormDec2017.pdf)

**Action:** Unanimously Approved

**Political Science**

**Motion to Bundle and Approve 17-18-039 & 17-18-040** (Dixon/Espinosa)

- 17-18-039 Approve revision to POL 208 Introduction to the Law, to add a credit and update the description.
- 17-18-040 Approve a new course: POL 334 Contemporary Constitutional Problems

**Discussion:** #039 asks to approve revisions to POL 208 Introduction to the Law to update the description and add a credit hour to bring it to four credits to allow for more experiential learning components. #040 requests approval for a new required elective course for the POL major: POL 334 Contemporary Constitutional Problems.

**Action:** Unanimously Approved

### **UCC**

- 17-18-041 Approve the deletion of several courses that have not been offered in three or more years: ANTH 205, ANTH 308, ENGL 100, PHIL 165, PHIL 264, PHYS 411, SWRK 440, SWRK 442, and SWRK 444.

**Action: TABLED (signatures incomplete)**

- Questions and critical considerations were invited that need to be addressed regarding the proposal to move forward on the increase of RIC online degree offerings through a partnership with the national nonprofit benefits organization UnionPlus and with the company Higher Education Partners. These will be compiled with those from other faculty committees and shared with Council and the Union, who will move to discover responses that can be shared with the faculty prior to a vote on the matter (most likely next March). The list of questions UCC generated are listed below.

8. Motion to adjourn. 3:08 -- Whole Committee

Questions regarding online programs at RIC

Generated by UCC

--Currently several of our Hybrid courses use guidelines set by "Quality Matters" to create standards for the online elements of these courses. What standards will be adopted by the online courses offered in these new programs?

--What will the admission and the retention standards be for students enrolling in online programs. (eg. SAT/ACT/HS position/grades?)

--Will the online programs mostly utilize online versions of existing courses, or will new ones be developed, and will these all be coming through UCC for approval? Who will be submitting them?

--Will the on-line programs be exact mirrors of face-to-face programs, or be a separate entity? And will online versions of programs be coming to UCC for approval? And who will own the courses that make up these online programs?

--Will the current department own the online versions of their courses or will this be a wholly separate school/set of schools?

--Does each online student need to declare a distinct program from day one, or will they have space/time to consider? Will they be able to switch to an alternative program once begun and transfer any courses that would be applicable? Will they be able to substitute any face-to-face courses as part of their program or must it all be online?

--Will all these online programs be 100% online or might some have multiple modes of delivery?

--What will be the caps on these courses—both lower and upper? N.B. An online course with 30 students is too high. Also, will there be caps on individual programs?

--How will these changes affect our current programs? (will there be any benefits?)

--What will be the cost of the online degree vs. the face-to-face version?

--Is there a clear route to accreditation for these new programs—will it be automatic? What will NEASC expect/ask? What about RIDE?

--Is there a minimum number of programs that will be expected to run (if so, how many?)

--Is there a minimum/maximum number of enrollments that will be set?

--How will advising be done for students in these online programs? Who will do this?

--Who will decide what programs will be offered? RN to BSN is only a two-year program, so does that make sense as a model for a four year degree?

--Will any of our current students be able to take any of the online courses to supplement their degrees?

--When and how will RIC have a written guarantee that if the Online programs do not enroll sufficient numbers, RIC is not left in debt to anyone? Also, who owns the things used/generated for these programs if the project fails? Will RIC be able to pull out in any way without loss once the MOU is signed?

--Will the degree obtained be a full RIC degree, or an alternate Online version? (will it specify on the actual certificate that it is online?)

--Will Online graduates have some opportunity to join in the college graduation ceremony?

--Who will be hiring the extra teachers needed to teach these courses? What numbers are we talking about here? In the hiring of people to teach these online courses, will current faculty be involved in the hiring (and at what level), and/or have right of refusal for anyone they consider unqualified to teach courses in their area? Also, will we be hiring union or non-union instructors? (adjuncts?) What kind of contracts will be offered the “online” educators? Will any of these “online” educators be offered opportunity for tenure?

--Clearly our current IT infrastructure could not handle this proposal, but given there will be a new one developed, will this be separate from the rest of the college or be incorporated, who will be managing the new IT (staff-wise), and will these IT people be working with the college as a whole or just the online programs?

--If these programs are going to be limited to Union members (or is it union members and families?) what is it expected that they will do with these degrees? Is the union paying any portion of their tuition or are they paying it all? Will they be eligible for things like Pell grants etc.? What exactly will be the benefit for these Union members to make them want to take these courses?

--How will the success of this program be measured? Retention rates? Graduation? Future employment? Enrollment?

--Who will be sharing the revenue from these courses and at what percentages?

--How will this be affected by net neutrality since that is such a prevalent issue right now?

--Will software (and/or hardware) and the like needed for this program be supplied to students, and who will supply it if so?

--Will this be like live online classrooms or more similar to BlackBoard?

--How will exams be kept honest?

--How will the college's core values be maintained?

--Will the general student body be invited to give any feedback or ask questions about this proposal?