

Rhode Island College Curriculum Committee
Minutes for Meeting of
March 25, 2011 2:00-4:00 P.M.
Board of Governors Room

Present: Faculty: S. Abbotson (presiding); K. Ainley; M. Aydogdu D. Blanchette; S. Conklin; I. Greitzer; B. MacDonald (recording); C. Marco; C. McLaughlin (Secretary); J. Meade; P. Meyer; J. Olson; R. Pitt; T. Schmeling; E. Simson; A. Snyder.

Absent: D. Huntley-Newby; S. McCarthy; J. Ogunba

Excused: L Cooley (GOGE)

Guests: O. Juzyn

1. Call to Order: 2:04 PM

2. Minutes: Meeting of February 18, 2011

Curriculum Committee meeting minutes Moved to Approve (Marco/Ainley)

Action: Passed Unanimously

3. Report from the Chair:

- Each year we need to nominate and elect roughly half of the members of the Committee. We will have 7 open seats next year. The following seats are open: Art/Communication, Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences, Management, and two for Education. The Chair encouraged the committee members who are at the end of their term to run again in the interest of continuity. The procedure is as follows: 1) the Chair asks for nominations from the above departments, 2) nominations are submitted to the Committee on Committees (Chair, J. Giroux), 3) ballots are sent to departments with deadline for election, 4) new members are announced, and 5) new members are installed at the May meeting.
- The Writing Board will present their annual report at the April meeting.
- The May 20, 2011 meeting will be at 2:00 PM.
- The following subcommittees will present annual reports at the May Meeting: COGE, Committee for Independent Majors, Honors Program, and Continuing Education. There will be a Deans' report on X50, X60, and X80 courses that have been offered more than three times.

4. Report from COGE: Laura Cooley submitted a written report to the Chair. She encouraged members of the CC to attend one of the three open meetings of the General Ed Task Force. The next meeting of COGE will be April 8, at 10 AM in the Student Union meeting.

5. New Business:

Modern Languages

Motion to approve: (Marco/Ainley)

Motion to bundle: (Marco/Ainley)

10-11-072 JPAN 101: Elementary Japanese I

10-11-073 JPAN 102: Elementary Japanese II

Dr. Olga Juzyn explained the reason for the proposals. Meyer questioned the fact that the course is taught by an adjunct professor. Snyder added that this could be problematic and perhaps set a precedent. Juzyn explained that typically full time faculty who teach a language, teach only one language.

Action: Approved with 1 abstention (Meyer)

Discussion of proposal to move to fall implementation only

The Executive Committee submitted a draft of a memo intended for distribution to the department chairs. The memo proposes a change in policy whereby all approved curriculum changes are implemented in the fall semester. Thus, the deadline for submitting a proposal to the Committee is March 1. A discussion ensued.

Conklin suggested that the memo should include calendar dates for all deadlines and publication schedules for on-line catalog and printed catalog. Point taken.

Simson suggested that a once-a-year deadline could mean a high number of proposals for the March meeting. He recalled December meetings with up to 102 proposals. Is there a way to limit the number of proposals?

Abbotson, suggested a two-hour time limit on the meeting. Simson replied that a time limit could be unfair to departments submitting one course proposal on the heels of a new program or program revision. It was concluded that the Executive Committee would have to “balance the load.”

Snyder asked why we have to print the catalog at all, why not make the catalog an “organic” document on line, changing as the curriculum changes. Marco pointed out that she uses the print copy when advising students. She typically advises 50 students and it is faster to look it up in the book. Simson explained that students’ program requirements are those that were in place when they were admitted to the College. Thus is it important to have access to older catalogs. Snyder asked why advisors did not use the student’s plan of study. Simson explained that only graduate students have a plan of study.

Abbotson asked for opinions about advising department chairs that a proposal approved in April will not be implemented the next fall but the one after that (i.e. in 16 months). Conklin requested a clarification of the full approval process. The possibility of making an exception to this deadline when warranted by extenuating circumstances was discussed. The consensus was that this provision for exceptions is the best way to institute this change in policy. It will take time. There was agreement that it will be important that the Committee Chair add the deadlines to the on-line academic calendar.

Abbotson will take the revised memo to the Graduate Curriculum Committee next week and seek support for this change in policy.

Discussion of course numbering issue

Abbotson presented the current College Guidelines on Course Numbering and a table of programs and potential problems with course numbering. A discussion ensued. Pitt pointed out that we should consider how other schools see our students’ transcripts. For example, what happens when graduate school admissions committee sees a transcript with no 400-level courses? One potential problem could be with the articulation agreement with CCRI. Schmeling stated that the current guidelines do not make sense. It was decided that the Committee Chair should solicit opinions from faculty members. Conklin suggested we ask the following: 1) Does the department’s course numbering system reflects these guidelines? 2) Do the guidelines make sense? 3) How would you change it if you could? 4) Is there a problem if a program has no 100-level courses? And 5) Is there a problem if a program has no 400-level courses.

6. Other New Business:
None

7. Motion to adjourn. Olson/Schmeling 3:30 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bonnie MacDonald

Next meeting: April 22, 2011 2:00 – 4:00 Board of Governors Room Roberts Hall