

Rhode Island College Graduate Committee Minutes

February 1, 2019

Kelley Board Room

Members Present: Deb Britt, Monica Darcy (Chair), Ying Hui-Michael, Jenn Meade, Leo Pinheiro, Leslie Schuster (non-voting)

Members not present: Elizabeth Holtzman, Marie Wilks

Guests for Proposals: Rachel Toncelli, Vitoria Restler, Marie Lynch, Deborah Siegel

Other Guests: VPSS Jason Meriwether, Kimberly Dumpson (Advancement), Alexis Gorton-Rogel
(Minutes)

- I. Call to order (10:02)
- II. Approve minutes from prior meeting. (Pinheiro, Britt)
Action: Approved Unanimously
- III. Report of Chair
 - I. Proposals continue to be at higher volume than previous years.
- IV. Report of Dean of Graduate Studies
 - I. Open House was very successful. 350 attendees. However, some programs were lower than previous years. Plans for focus group to explore communication enterprises for next year.
 - II. Commencement will be different than previous years, as it will be a combined commencement.
 - i. To address time constraints, two people will be hooding two students at once. Grad/Doctoral students will go first.
- V. Discussion items
 - a. Graduate recruitment, diversity, and inclusion (Guest visitors: Jason Meriwether, Kimberly Dumpson, and Admissions representative.)
 - I. Funding Proposals – J. Meriwether notified President Sanchez of the steps being taken to create funding for initiatives.
 - II. Dr. Meriwether asks for input from the committee to create funding proposal. Committee chair requests some guidance as to how the proposal should be built.
 1. Office of Graduate Studies will provide list of institutions/individuals that were contacted for Open House.
 2. Dr. Meriwether recommends a meeting specifically to go through, step by step, the needs of the programs.
 3. Committee member requested a template or guideline of what information would be helpful for promotional information. K. Dumpson shares that the information is the information you would be offering to a prospective student to promote the uniqueness and strengths of the programs. K. Dumpson clarifies the program directors are providing the information, the other departments will be offering the packaging.
 - a. Dr. Meriwether shares that he believes the biggest strength is the faculty connections, and requests stories from the committee that reflect that faculty/student connection.

- b. Career growth through program resources – stories of research, program outcomes.
- c. Dean of Graduate Studies shares that the Open House evaluations highlight repeatedly the accessibility of RIC, both as an institution and the individual faculty/staff. She'd like to see the promotional pieces reflect that quality, especially in regard to working professionals.

III. Dr. Meriwether recommends bringing in Admissions and connecting with initiatives there.

IV. K. Dumpson is working with communications to review promotional materials and is hoping to build in a video project in next year's budget that would act to promote Graduate programs.

- 1. Video will be a wide focus on continuing career growth, building on skills, while communication and materials for specific programs will build on that for the specific student interest.

VI. Old business

VII. New Business

I. Proposals

- 1. 1819_26 Delete courses not taught in 3 years (Approve: Britt, Meade)
 - i. Due to lack of answers from program directors, Committee Chair has gone forward with the answers she has been able to gather from MSW approvals.
 - ii. Program directors have been contacted by their dean of courses that will be deleted.

Action: Approved Unanimously

- 2. Special Education Proposals (Motion to Bundle & Approve: Jacques, Meade)
 - i. 1819_27 catalog SPED 531 and 533 changes; 1819_28 SPED 533 creation. Change has come out of re-structuring of graduate courses. 531 was always a required course for all educators. It has been adapted, by the creation of 533, to be a two course experience. M. Lynch: 531 is the "what" and 533 is the "how."

Action: Approved Unanimously

- 3. TESL Changes (Motion to Bundle & Approve: Britt, Meade)
 - i. 1819_29 TESOL prg revisions, 1819_30 TESOL Course name revisions, 1819_31 TESL 599 Graduate Essay Course creation,
 - ii. A change in name that aligns with national accreditation, but also better represents what the focus is for students. With this program name change, program names are being updated. Content is not changing, but names are being clarified. One credit course 599 will strengthen the partnership between student and teacher. Other course 600 has been run as a workshop and is now being proposed as a formal course. It supports a new certification level that RIde has created and RIC will be the only institution that offers the courses.
 - 1. 1819_32 TESL 600 Course creation
 - a. Committee chair requests that language in description be changed from "license" to "certification" to align with outcome through this program.

Action: Approved Unanimously

4. YDEV Program Proposal (Motion to Bundle/Approve: Jacques, Britt)
 - i. 1819_33 MA YDEV program creation; 1819-33 catalog MA YDEV program creation
 1. Undergraduate program has about 100 alumni, and 60 current programs. It is these alumni who are pushing for RIC to offer a graduate program. While developing the program, Victoria Restler has explored what is needed for professional development in the area. It is designed to be flexible, for working experiences, allowing students to take one course a semester and finish in two years. Allows students to use their own work spaces as field experience.
 - a. Graduate Dean: 20 interested applicants at open house, for a program that is not launched, shows there is active interest in the program.
 2. Course Proposals: 1819_34 YDEV 501 course creation, 1819_35 YDEV 502 course creation, 1819_36 YDEV 510 course creation, 1819_37 YDEV 520 course creation, 1819_38 YDEV 521 course creatio, 1819_39 YDEV 540 course creation, 1819_40 YDEV 560 course creation, 1819_41 YDEV 561 course creation, 1819_42 YDEV 590 course creation bundled

Action: Approved Unanimously

5. MSW Course Creation (Motion to Bundle & Approve: Jacques, Meade)
 - i. Proposals 1819_43 SWRK 557 Course Creation, 1819_43 catalog SWRK 557_558 course creation, 1819_44 SWRK 558 course creation bundled.
 - ii. Students attend a course once a month at RIC SSW and one seminar at Brown Medical School. It is an interdisciplinary course that pulls students from many institutions around the area. It focuses on medical issues for the homeless population. During the fourth week of the month, instructors and students go into the area and directly interact with the homeless population to better understand the supports needed.
 - iii. Deborah Siegel, instructor/proposer, states that the course is different than anything she has ever taught. Due to the level of experiential learning and experiences, the twice-a-month seminar is led mostly by student experiences and need to discuss and impact.
 - iv. It connects the skills and knowledge of the medical students with social work students and vice versa.

Action: Approved Unanimously

- II. Review proposal for dual degree policy edits
 1. The proposal is built as a committee change informed by the many conversations surrounding dual degrees.

- i. There is an active desire to be proactive and aware of programs to support students in completing advanced degrees in a timely manner.

2. Discussion

- i. One committee member proposes raising the limit of courses allowed to be transferred to a plan of study from 9 to 10. This allows students in programs with courses that are 4 credits to take more courses before beginning their program. This is actually an issue outside of dual-degree courses.
- ii. A committee member explains the possible rationale for 9 credits, as that is equivalent to one full time graduate semester.
- iii. This is also complicated by 60 credit hour programs. Suggestion - could this be raised to 30% of the courses for all programs? While the committee is not at a point of creating a dual degree policy for 60 credits, committee chair would like to leave the door open for programs with higher credit requirements beyond the 9 credits.
 1. Suggestion: "Open to up to 30% for programs larger than 30 credit hours." Committee member disagrees, as they believe 30% is too open to interpretation. Graduate Dean agrees that it would be better to specify credit loads. Suggestion: 9 credits for 30 credits, up to 18 credits for 60+ credits. After some discussion, return to 30%, but with clarification that it must be 30% of the required credits for program.
- iv. Pages 4-6 creates specific portions of the manual that pull together dual-degree programs together into one place.
 - a. Language to clarify WHAT is a graduate level course – specifically regarding 400-level courses – will be created by committee member.

Action: Carried on for further discussion with executive committee. Bring back to next meeting

III. Review proposal for graduate transfer policy (second degree)

1. Creating a second degree policy with a residency requirement. It would allow a student with a previous masters to transfer in courses to a new degree if the courses fit. The limit would be 1/5th of required credits.

Action: Will be tabled for next meeting.

VIII. Other business

IX. Adjournment: 12:10PM