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Curricular Affairs Committee Minutes February 25, 2013

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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CURRICULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes for the fourth meeting of the 2012-2013 academic year

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, February 25, 2013 in Library Conference Room A, Chairperson Brand presiding.

The following members were present: Professors Brand, Doerner, English, Jervis, Honhart, MacDonald, Misto, and Mundorf; Dean Quina; Ms. Buss. Ms. Neff from the Faculty Senate Office was also in attendance.

GUESTS: Professor Gonzales from the Department of Computer Science and Statistics and Professor Torrens representing Online Education.

II. The Minutes of Meeting #5, January 28, 2013 were approved.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Course Changes

Following discussion, TMD 240 was approved for online instruction.

B. New Course

Following discussion of the revision to the proposal, the addition of PSC (GWS) 441 was approved.

C. Curricular Program Changes

Following discussion, the revised change to the B.A. in English was approved.

IV. REPORTS

A. Professor English reported that she had presented the Five Hundred Third Report of the Curricular Affairs Committee to the Faculty Senate on February 21. She said that the Senate had approved all of the matters that required confirmation. Professor Brand thanked Professor English for coming to the CAC’s rescue and by giving the report to the Senate.

B. Since Professor Torrens wasn’t expected to join the CAC until 3:30 p.m. and Professor Gonzales was available, the committee changed the order of business and moved to item B under New Business.

V. NEW BUSINESS

B. Course Changes

Following discussion, the change in credits for STA 308 was approved. Professor Gonzales was asked to update her syllabus based on the CAC’s most recent models.

When Professor Torrens arrived, the committee resumed its regular order of business with item IV, B.
IV. B. Professor Kathleen Torrens, Communication Studies and Coordinator of Online Teaching and Learning gave an overview of efforts to improve the pedagogy for teaching online at URI. She said that she had been involved in training for several years but regretted that she hadn’t been able to accomplish as much as she would have wanted because there had been only a limited amount of support for doing so. She said that with the arrival of Dr. Diane Goldsmith, efforts were underway to develop policies and procedures to improve online pedagogy and to ensure quality of courses offered online.

Professor Torrens noted that a new Joint Committee on Online and Distance Learning had been established this year and the group was beginning to develop policies for online instruction. Chairperson Brand said that Professor Mundorf had represented the CAC on the new Online Committee in the fall and she began attending meetings this semester.

Some members of the CAC expressed concern about the difficulty of verifying that students were doing their own work and were taking their own exams. Professor Torrens suggested that there were ways to ensure frequent and varied interactions with the students that give the instructor an opportunity to have a better understanding of who the students are and how each individual student is doing in the class.

It was further noted that the issue of authentication had been raised by NEASC and a policy was being developed in that regard.

Professor Torrens volunteered to assist the CAC in reviewing proposals for teaching courses online and indicated that she had forwarded to Chairperson Brand four syllabi she thought the CAC might find useful.

Professor Torrens also suggested that members of the CAC look at the Online website to get a better picture of what has been happening with regard to online instruction. The website is http://www.uri.edu/online/index.html

When Professor Torrens left the meeting, the CAC resumed its regular order of business with item V, A.

V. A. New Courses

1. The addition of the following courses was approved:

   a. POR 205 and POR 206

   b. SOC 332

   It was agreed to add the SOC 332 syllabus to the website as a model syllabus.

2. Following discussion, consideration of PRS 300 was postponed pending receipt of additional information. It was agreed to invite Professor Derbyshire to the next meeting to discuss the course.

3. It was agreed to consider the addition of HIS 176 despite its late arrival because of extenuating circumstances regarding the instructor.

   Following discussion, HIS 176 was approved pending receipt of requested additional information.
C. Consent Items

The following consent items were approved:

   a. The change in method of instruction for EGR 105
   b. The change in prerequisite for ELE 437 (CSC 417), HIS 328 and HIS 388 (or AAF 388)

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Following discussion, the committee agreed to include the revised syllabus template and the model syllabi (BUS 302, COM 410 Online, EDC 312 (D. Kern), EGR 110, NFS 212 and SOC 332) on the syllabus website at http://www.uri.edu/facsen/curricular/syllabus_development.html

Members of the committee expressed its appreciation to Ms. Neff for all of her efforts to improve the syllabus website

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Black Grubman