UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE
CURRICULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the fifth meeting of the 2015-2016 academic year

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2016 in Library Conference Room A, Chairperson Owens presiding.

The following members were present: Professors Brand, Chadha, English, Hawes, Izenstark, Rojas, Vaccaro, Vice Provost Beauvais, and Ms. Kristine Buss. Ms. Neff, Faculty Senate Office, was also in attendance.

The following members were not present: Professors Akanda, Ferguson, and Flannery-Schroeder.

II. The Minutes of Meeting #4, December 4, 2015, were approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A) Chairperson Owens relayed her discussion with the Health Studies director. The proposal for HLT 300, Special Topics in Health Studies, is under revision to propose the topics as new permanent courses.

B) Chairperson Owens introduced Professor Rivero Hudec from Chemical Engineering to address the changes to the Chemical Engineering Biology and Pharmaceutical tracks. Professor Rivero Hudec explained that these changes actually increase the number of courses students can take, thus allowing for a broadening of their experience and interests. In regard to the number of biology and pharmacy courses the students take, Professor Rivero Hudec explained that additional biology and pharmacy courses are part of the students’ core courses.

Professor Rivero Hudec agreed to the Chairperson’s request to send updated curriculum sheets to the Faculty Senate Office. Chairperson Owens thanked Professor Rivero Hudec for attending and clarifying the committee’s questions. A vote was taken and the proposal to change requirements and catalog language to the Chemical Engineering major with the biology and pharmaceutical tracks was approved with two abstentions.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:
A. NEW GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES:

The Committee considered the proposal for the creation of a new grand challenge course, TMD 326G, What is Good Design. This course was proposed as part of the new general education program, with Humanities and Global Responsibilities as full outcomes. The Committee approved this proposal.

B. COURSE DELETIONS:

The Committee considered a proposal to delete PHP/NUR 114 Responsible Health Care. The proposal was approved.

C. CURRICULAR CHANGES:

a) College of Environment and Life Sciences:

The request to change the requirements for the BS in Nutrition and Dietetics was discussed by the Committee. The proposal was approved.

The Committee considered the proposal requesting the creation of a new minor in Global Water Resources. The new minor was approved.

b) College of Health Studies:

The Committee discussed the proposal to allow the College of Health Studies to award the degrees for those programs and departments transferring in that college. Professor English pointed out several typographical errors in the proposal. The proposal was approved with corrections.

c) College of Human Science and Services:

The Committee reviewed and discussed a proposal from the School of Education to change the postings on the URI transcripts to coincide with the Rhode Island Department of Education requirements for teacher certification. The committee was concerned about the requested PK-12 designation versus the existing K-12 designation. The proposal was tabled for clarification, after which time the Faculty Senate Office would distribute a poll for approval.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a) The Committee discussed the Development of Faculty Policy for Syllabi. A discussion was held regarding the posting of University Policies on syllabi. Discussion included having the
individual policies accessible on one website, the need for using links versus lengthy written paragraphs on the syllabi, and which policies should be standardized to appear on all syllabi. A suggestion was made for a CAC member to work with the Faculty Development Office. Chairperson Owens and Vice Provost Beauvais agreed to work on the policy statement and syllabus template.

b) The Committee discussed revising the syllabus templates. Chairperson Owens encouraged all members to review and comment on the current template. The Committee agreed that having a strong template is helpful to all faculty.

c) The Committee considered the role that 400-level courses play in undergraduate and graduate programs. The Committee discussed the dual approval process for 400-level courses. Chairperson Owens suggested that Associate Dean Rusnock be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the approval of 400-level courses by the Graduate Council and the allowance of 400-level courses in graduate Programs of Study.

d) Associate Dean Vaccaro volunteered to fill the vacancy on the Diversity and Inclusion General Education Outcome Panel. Associate Dean Quina had served on that panel until her retirement in December 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Lawrence
POST-SCRIPT (Update after 2/1/16 meeting)

Curricular Change Presented at 2/1/16 Meeting:

1) The clarification of the curricular proposal from the School of Education was received and presented to the Committee via a poll. On February 11, 2016 the Committee electronically approved the proposal.