Curricular Affairs Committee Minutes February 29, 2016

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE
CURRICULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. on Monday, February 29, 2016 in Library Conference Room A, Chairperson Owens presiding.

The following members were present: Professors Akanda, Brand, Chadha, Dorado, English, Ferguson, Flannery-Schroeder, Hawes, Izenstark, Rojas, Vaccaro, and Vice Provost Beauvais. Ms. Neff, Faculty Senate Office, was also in attendance.

The following member was not present: Ms. Buss.

II. The Minutes of Meeting #5, February 1, 2016, were approved.

III. GUESTS

Chairperson Owens made a motion to move the order of business and address the 400-level course discussion item to accommodate Associate Dean Rusnock from the Graduate School. Due to time constraints a stipulation was made that at 3:15 the discussion of 400-level courses would cease and be continued after addressing the BUS 231X and BUS 431X with Associate Dean Rosen and Professor Dorado. The motion was approved.

The committee, with Associate Dean Rusnock, discussed 400-level courses as applicable for graduate students and the approval process of the Graduate Council. A discussion was held of 400-level courses having the same requirements for undergraduate and graduate students in contrast to the 400- 500- level simultaneous courses. In an effort to streamline the approval process, Associate Dean Rusnock will initiate a conversation of 400-level courses with the Graduate Council and get back to the CAC.

Professor Dorado and Associate Dean Rosen, from the College of Business were in attendance to address questions on the proposals for BUS 231X, Fundamentals of Banking and BUS 431X Fundamentals of Commercial Lending. These courses would initially be for non-matriculating students; in the future it is expected that matriculating students would be able to register for these courses. After discussion, the committee voted to approve these courses.
IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. NEW COURSES:

The Committee discussed the new course proposals for HLT 312, Intersecting Social Identities and Health and HLT 320/COM 320, Health Communication. The Committee felt the proposals were not posted with ample time to review them thoroughly. It was decided that a poll would be sent out at the end of the week for these courses and the Committee would vote electronically.

The Committee considered the proposal for the creation of MAF/SOC 340, Environmental Sociology, as a permanent course. The course was previously offered as a temporary (X) course. The proposal was approved.

B. NEW GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES:

The Committee considered the proposal for the creation of a new general education course, EEC 352, Economics of Small-Scale Renewable Energy Systems. This course was proposed as part of the new general education program, with Social and Behavioral Sciences as a full outcome and Write Effectively as a partial outcome. The Committee found a gap in the grading scale and conflicting information about the final exam and/or final project. Professor English volunteered to contact the instructor. The Committee requested an electronic poll be sent out once a revised syllabus was received.

C. COURSE CHANGES:

The Committee reviewed the proposal to change the title, description and cross-listing of AFS/AVS/PLS 132, Sustainable Agriculture, Food Systems, and Society. The Committee approved the changes.

The Committee discussed the proposals to change the prerequisites for BIO 412, Evolution and Diversity of Fishes, and BIO 469, Tropical Marine Invertebrates. The Committee approved both proposals.

D. CONSENT ITEMS:

The consent items, a proposal to delete PHP/NUR/PLS 143, Sustainable Solutions for Global Health Problems, and a proposal to change the prerequisite of KIN 484, Supervised Field Work, were approved.

E. CURRICULAR CHANGES:
a) College of Environment and Life Sciences:

The request to create a SAF course code was considered and approved by the Committee.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a) The Committee approved Portfolio as a Method of Instruction thereby allowing Enrollment Services to add Portfolio as a “course component” option.

b) The Committee discussed the changes to the instructor policies and syllabus template made by Chairperson Owens. After additional revisions were suggested, Ms. Neff volunteered to incorporate those changes and communicate the revisions to the Faculty Development Office for posting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Lawrence
1) The proposal for the creation of HLT 312, Intersecting Social Identities and Health (3 crs.) was electronically approved.

2) The proposal for new course HLT 320/COM 320, Health Communication was approved by the Committee via electronic poll.

3) The revised syllabus for EEC 352, Economics of Small-Scale Renewable Energy Systems was received. The Committee voted to approve this proposal electronically.

4) The proposal changes in courses number, title, and description for RLS 226, Christian Thought-Agreements and Differences (previously RLS 126, The Development of Christian Thought) was presented to the CAC electronically. This course was fully approved by the general education panels on the day of the CAC meeting and added to the poll with permission of the Committee. The Committee voted to approve these course changes.