Curricular Affairs Committee Minutes October 19, 2015

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE
CURIricular Affairs Committee

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

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2015 in Library Conference Room A, Acting Chairperson Brand presiding.

The following members were present: Professor Chadha, Dorado, English, Hawes, Izenstark, Quina, Vice Provost Beauvais, and Ms. Kristine Buss. Dr. Goldsmith, Chair of the Joint Committee on Online and Distance Learning, Ms. Neff, Faculty Senate Office, were also in attendance.

Members absent: Professors Akanda, Ferguson, Owens, and Rojas.

II. The Minutes of Meeting #1, September 21, 2015, were approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. NEW COURSES:

The Committee reviewed a proposal from the College of Nursing for the creation of NUR 485, National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) RN Review, as a permanent course. (The Committee previously approved this course as an X course). Discussion ensued regarding the course being open to students of any RN programs, not just URI students. The proposal was approved.

B. COURSE CHANGES:

The Committee approved, with the clarification of which syllabus is accurate, the changes to BIO 498, Teaching Practicum in Biological Sciences. Professor English volunteered to contact the proposer for clarification.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposal for changes to the method of teaching and the prerequisite of KIN 325, Exercise Testing and Prescription. With the addition of the phrase “or permission of instructor” added to the prerequisite, the course changes
were approved. Professor English volunteered to contact the chair of Kinesiology for approval of revising the prerequisite.

C. CONSENT ITEMS:

**KIN 370, Kinesiology**, change prerequisite. With the addition of the phrase “or permission of instructor” added to the prerequisite, the course change was approved.

**KIN 381, Exercise Behavior and Psychosocial Outcomes**, change prerequisite. With the addition of the phrase “or permission of instructor” added to the prerequisite, the course change was approved.

**KIN 425, Fitness and Wellness Program Development**, change prerequisite. With the addition of the phrase “or permission of instructor” added to the prerequisite, the course change was approved.

D. ONLINE OFFERINGS:

The Committee approved the ONLINE section, for the 7-week accelerated programs, for:

**BPS 333, Nursing Pharmacology**

**NFS 207, General Nutrition**

E. CURRICULAR CHANGES:

a) COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES:

The Committee reviewed a proposal from the College of Environment and Life Sciences to change the name of the degree for Biological Sciences to Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from the current Bachelor of Science. The proposal was approved.

The Committee reviewed a proposal from the College of Environment and Life Sciences to change the name of the degree for Marine Biology to Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the current Bachelor of Science. The proposal was approved.

F. OTHER REQUESTS:

The Committee discussed the proposal for the creation of a New Student Academic Advising Program Affiliated with the Undergraduate Minor in International Development in CELS: The
Peace Corps Preparatory Program. The Committee noted that the use of phrases comparing the advisory program to a minor or a certificate were problematic. The University will not be granting or acknowledging anything on the student’s transcript in this program; it is an aid for students getting into the Peace Corps after graduation. A suggestion for including the term “advising” in the title of the program was favored by the Committee.

Ms. Neff queried the Committee as to whether they felt that the CAC needed to vote to approve or to consider it an informational issue. If the committee considered it an informational issue, they would still have the purview to suggest edits and revisions, and then relay it to the Faculty Senate as a resolution. The Committee was agreeable with this idea. Vice Provost Beauvais was asked to contact the parties and have the proposal edited to concisely reflect the relationship to URI as an advising program.

With the recommendation of edits to the proposal, the Committee approved presenting this to the Senate in the form of a Resolution.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1) Ms. Neff discussed the issue of the placement of links for syllabi information and templates. Previously, information on syllabi resided on the Instructional Development Program and Faculty Senate websites. Ms. Neff relayed the suggestion of the 2014-15 Faculty Senate Chair that the Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (OATL) would be a logical place for syllabi information to be maintained. Dr. Goldsmith agreed and anticipates that the syllabi information will be available on the OATL website by the end of the year. She said that she would attend to it with “alacrity and dispatch.” Currently the links for syllabi development and templates can be accessed through the General Education New Course Proposal website on the “detailed instructions” page (http://web.uri.edu/ge-new-course/). A discussion was held of the CAC having the ability to review revised syllabi before they are posted as templates.

2) Regarding the efficacy of electronic polls, Ms. Neff pointed out to the Committee that it can be burdensome when the Committee Members are deficient in responding. The members volunteered that they would be timelier in the future.

3) Ms. Neff conveyed to the Committee an issue that had come up regarding the scheduling of courses designated Lec. 3 vs. those designated as Lec. 2, Rec. 1. She explained that a department had for several years been able to schedule classes as they desired either as Lec. 3 or Lec. 2, Rec. 1. Now they were being told by Enrollment Services that a course designated as Lec. 3 could not be scheduled as Lec. 2, Rec. 1 or vice versa. Ms. Neff contacted Enrollment Services for clarification; they explained the change occurred when the course description catalog information was taken directly from eCampus.

Ms. Neff asked the Committee if they would approve allowing courses to have flexibility in the teaching methods. If proposed by a department, the courses could be coded in eCampus as Lec. 3 or Lec. 2, Rec. 1. This would allow Enrollment Services to schedule the course in either format per the request of department. The Committee was receptive to this idea of flexibility and would be open to consider such proposals.
4) Professor Quina updated the CAC of meetings on the possible CCE/School of Education merger. The two entities are working toward a development plan that will effectively coincide with the University’s and their individual missions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Lawrence
POST-SCRIPT (Update after 10/19/15 meeting)

Courses Presented at 10/19/15 meeting:

1) KIN 325, Exercise Testing and Prescription. Revision to the prerequisite by adding “or permission of instructor” was approved via email from the department chair on October 20, 2015. The Faculty Senate Office updated the course change proposal form.

2) KIN 370, Kinesiology. Revision to the prerequisite by adding “or permission of instructor” was approved via email from the department chair on October 20, 2015. The Faculty Senate Office updated the course change proposal form.

3) KIN 381, Exercise Behavior and Psychosocial Outcomes. Revision to the prerequisite by adding “or permission of instructor” was approved via email from the department chair on October 20, 2015. The Faculty Senate Office updated the course change proposal form.

4) KIN 425, Fitness and Wellness Program Development. Revision to the prerequisite by adding “or permission of instructor” was approved via email from the department chair on October 20, 2015. The Faculty Senate Office updated the course change proposal form.