Curricular Affairs Committee Minutes December 14, 2015

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE
CURRICULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2015 in Library Conference Room A, Chairperson Owens presiding.

The following members were present: Professors Brand, Dorado, English, Ferguson, Flannery-Schroeder, Hawes, Izenstark, Quina, Rojas, Vice Provost Beauvais, and Ms. Kristine Buss. Dr. Goldsmith, Director of the Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, and Ms. Neff, Faculty Senate Office, were also in attendance.

The following members were not present: Professors Akanda, and Chadha.

II. The Minutes of Meeting #3, November 23, 2015, were approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Chairperson Owens made a motion to move the order of business and address the English courses under Course Changes in order to accommodate the schedule of invited guest, Professor Williams. The motion was approved.

The Committee had asked Professor Williams to attend the meeting to explain the changes to the prerequisites of ENG 493, Internship in English, and ENG 494, Internship in English. Dr. Williams explained the rationale for adding “prior completion of or concurrent enrollment in ITR 303 or 304.” He answered questions. The proposals for ENG 493 and ENG 494 were approved.

Chairperson Owens made a motion to move the order of business to address the discussion items prior to the remainder of the proposals. The motion was approved.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:
a) The Committee discussed the role of the CAC member in the approval process of new courses and course changes submitted to the new general education program. Professor English, as the CAC representative on an approval panel, asked if a course could be approved for general education if the syllabus did not meet the requirements of the CAC. A suggestion was made that the CAC panel member should notify the proposer of concerns that the CAC would have and encourage those issues to be addressed. If a course has met the general education requirements it should not be rejected for concerns and needs of the CAC because it will be reviewed a second time by the full CAC. This full CAC review will offer another opportunity to communicate the rationale for the requirements to the proposer. A suggestion was made that the syllabus checklist developed by Chairperson Owens should be distributed to panel chairs.

In regard to general education proposals that require review during the Winter term, it was decided that electronic votes would be utilized, and the Faculty Senate Office would send email poll on Mondays (or Tuesday) and ask that the Committee vote by the following Friday.

b) The Committee discussed the question of allowing an online course to be offered in any term (regular semester, Winter J-term, or Summer Session) if it had been previously approved for a 7-week accelerated online program. The Committee decided that there was no need to review and approve syllabi for each term offering. Because the 7-week accelerated online courses require different coding in eCampus than other online courses, the Faculty Senate Office would need notification (i.e. email) from department chairs and deans’ offices requesting additional online offerings and address any prerequisites differences between the 7-week accelerated online courses and the other online offerings.

c) The Committee discussed 400-level undergraduate courses offered for graduate credit. Committee members were asked to consider the current policy of allowing credit for 400-level courses in Masters level graduate programs and the review process of these courses by the Graduate Council. It was suggested that a sub-committee be formed to review the University Manual language regarding graduate credit for 400-level courses and study all aspects of the subject. Professor Dorado expressed interest in serving on the sub-committee.

d) The Committee discussed revising and updating the syllabus template which is linked through the website of The Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning. Chairperson Owens asked Committee members to review the information on the website and offer suggestions for improved faculty policies at the next meeting.

The Committee returned to Old Business.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. NEW COURSES:

The Committee reviewed a proposal for the creation of HDF 191, Developing a Standards-Based Early Childhood Curriculum. The Committee expressed concern of the teaching
method as a lecture course. After discussion, “Portfolio” seemed to be a more precise method of teaching. The proposal was approved pending consent to this change by the course proposer.

B. COURSE CHANGES:

The Committee approved the change to the prerequisites, method of instruction, and allowing for graduate credit for HDF 455, Assessment in Early Childhood.

Professor English reported that concerns about the proposal to change to the course number, title, description and cross-listing of APG 301, The Anthropology of Nutrition to APG/SOC/GWS 308, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Cultures, had been resolved. The Committee approved the proposal.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. NEW COURSES:

The Committee reviewed the proposal for the creation of HLT 300, Special Topics in Health Studies. Questions arose about the use of the term “interdisciplinary” vs. multidisciplinary in the course description. The Committee questioned the applicability of the individual subjects as appropriate topics that may be offered only three times, and questioned the choice of a Topics course instead of a Permanent course. The Committee expressed interest in obtaining consent from the College of Business Administration and the Department of Communication Studies about the topic subjects, Perspectives on the Healthcare Workforce and Health Communication. Chairperson Owens indicated that she would follow-up with the course proposer. The proposal was tabled until the next meeting.

The Committee considered proposals for the creation of JPN 305, Advanced Japanese I and JPN 306, Advanced Japanese II. The Committee approved these proposals.

B. COURSE CHANGES:

The Committee considered a proposal to change the course number, course description and cross-listing of MAF/HIS 370, Environmental Injustice (previously MAF 380). The proposal was approved.

C. COURSES CHANGES FOR NEW GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM:

The Committee approved changes to the title and description of HIS 114 Europe Since 1789 (previously HIS 114 History of Western Civilization).
D. CONSENT ITEMS:

The committee approved the change of prerequisite for CHE 364, Chemical Kinetics and Reactor Design and GER 411, Advanced Technical German.

E. CURRICULAR CHANGES:

a) College of Arts and Sciences:

The request to add a Religious Studies track to the Philosophy major was approved pending the approval of the new courses and any course changes.

b) College of Engineering:

The Committee discussed a curriculum change to the Biology and Pharmaceutical tracks of the Chemical Engineering degree program. The Committee expressed concerns about the lack of a rationale, and the lack of biology and pharmacy courses in the respective tracks. Ms. Buss indicated that she would contact the college curriculum coordinator about these issues and ask the coordinator and Chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering to attend the next meeting. The proposal was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Lawrence
POST-SCRIPT (Update after 11/23/15 meeting)

Courses Presented at 11/23/15 Meeting:

1) HDF 191, Developing a Standards-Based Early Childhood Curriculum. The chair agreed to using “Portfolio” as method of instruction. As this course was approved pending this addition, no further action was needed and the course was added to the CAC 529th Report to the Senate.