2017

Curricular Affairs Committee Minutes January 30, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation
University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "Curricular Affairs Committee Minutes January 30, 2017" (2017). Faculty Senate Committee Reports and Appendices. Paper 117.
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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE 
CURRICULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the fifth meeting of the 2016-2017 academic year

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2017 in Library Conference Room A, Faculty Senate Chair Sullivan presiding.

The following members were present: Professors Cardany, Dorado, English, Ferguson, McClure, Opaluch, Stout, Vice Provost Beauvais, Director Goldsmith, and Mr. John Rooney. Ms. Neff, Faculty Senate Office, was also in attendance.

The following members were absent: Professors Gordon, Izenstark, King, and Swaszek.

Faculty Senate Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

II. The Minutes of Meeting #3, November 21, 2016 and Meeting #4, December 12, 2016 were approved.

Chairperson Sullivan made a motion to move the order of business and proceed with discussion of the proposals requesting online offerings, to accommodate Director Goldsmith. The motion was seconded and approved.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

D. ONLINE COURSES:

The Committee reviewed the proposal to create an online version of AVS 101, Introduction to Animal Science. The proposal was approved.

The Committee reviewed the proposal to create an online version of ECN 328, Intermediate Economic Theory: Pricing and Distribution. The proposal was discussed and approved by the Committee.

The Committee returned to the regular order of business.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

The Committee considered the proposal, with revised information, for the creation of OCG 108G, Living by the Ocean. The Committee expressed concern of the use of “Midterm 1” and “Midterm 2” on the syllabus. A recommendation was made to use “Exam 1” and “Exam 2.” The course was approved. Chair
Sullivan volunteered to contact the instructor requesting this change on the syllabus. The proposal will be forwarded to the General Education Committee for consideration as a general education course.

The Committee discussed the revised proposal for changes to the **Hunger Studies Minor**. The proposal was approved.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. NEW COURSES:**

The Committee reviewed the new course proposal for **ARB 120, Arabic for Heritage Learners**. The Committee requested adding the statement “Not open to students with credit in ARB 111 or 112.” The Faculty Senate Office will notify the proposer of the change. The proposal was approved. The proposal will be forwarded to the General Education Committee for acceptance as a general education course.

The Committee discussed the proposal for the creation of **LAN 220, Understanding Cultures Through Language**. The Committee was concerned about the large number of outcomes listed on the syllabus. Vice Provost Beauvais was asked to relay the concerns to the General Education Committee. The course was approved and will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

A proposal for a new course, **MTH 103, Applied Precalculus**, was presented to the committee. Discussion ensued regarding the practice of scheduling exams outside of class time during evening hours, and the conflict with evening classes. The Committee voted to approve this course. The proposal will be forwarded to the General Education Committee for acceptance as a general education course.

Professor Dorado moved to direct the acting chair of the Committee to request that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee study and make recommendations to resolve the conflicts that arise from the practice of scheduling exams outside of scheduled class time during evening hours, and the consequential conflicts with evening courses. The motion was seconded, discussed, and approved.

The Committee considered and discussed the proposal for **OCG 150, Coastal Oceanographic Data in RI Waters**. The Committee requested additional information regarding any safety precautions in place for the students. The Committee also asked that the course description be changed to “Students work in teams…” removing “get their hands wet working….” Vice Provost Beauvais volunteered to contact the proposer. The proposal was tabled until the February meeting.

**B. COURSE CHANGES:**

The Committee considered the proposal for **MTH 131, Applied Calculus I**, to change the description and prerequisite. The Committee approved the proposal.

A proposal was presented to the Committee to change the course number and prerequisites for **PSY 302 to PSY 435, Applied Methods in Psychological Research**. The proposal was tabled until the February meeting as no syllabus was provided. Professor English volunteered to follow up on this course.

**C. CONSENT ITEMS:**
The proposal to change the prerequisite for NRS 305, Principles of Wildlife Ecology and Management was considered and approved by the Committee.

E. PROGRAM PROPOSALS:

1) College of Arts and Sciences:

The Committee considered the proposal for changes to the Bachelor of Music in Composition. After discussion, the proposal was approved.

2) Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies:

The Committee reviewed the proposal to change the undergraduate admission GPA requirements for Education Majors. The proposal was approved and will be forwarded to the Graduate Council for approval of the graduate portion of the proposal.

3) College of Engineering:

The Committee considered a proposal to change the number of credits from 123-124 to 120-121 for the Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering. The proposal was approved.

4) College of the Environment and Life Sciences:

A proposal to create a Bioinformatics Track Option in the Cell and Molecular Biology program was discussed and reviewed by the Committee. The proposal was approved.

5) College of Health Sciences:

The College of Health Sciences proposed changes to the Psychology Bachelor of Science program. The Faculty Senate Office informed the Committee that they had contacted the College Curriculum Committee Chair and requested corrections to the curriculum worksheet and letters from chairs of the Writing and Computer Science and Statistics departments. The proposal was tabled until the February meeting. Cathy English volunteered to follow up.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,