Curricular Affairs Committee Minutes March 27, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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I. The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2017 in the Library HELIN Conference Room, Chairperson Sullivan presiding.

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

The following member was absent: Vice Provost Beauvais.

Chairperson Sullivan called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

II. The Minutes of Meeting #6, February 27, 2017 were approved.

III. REPORTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairperson Sullivan asked for a motion to change the order of the agenda to consider the proposals for Oceanography courses and the Proficiency in Ocean Data Science (PODS) minor to accommodate guests. A motion was made and approved. Senator Kincaid, and Professors Donohue, and Maranda, from the Graduate School of Oceanography were available to address the committee’s questions. In response to inquiries from the Committee, Senator Kincaid explained that while some equipment will be funded by grants, the equipment utilized by students does not hinge upon grant support. Students will be taught how to collect, interpret, and determine if data is good or bad and why. As the Senate just approved undergraduate certificates, the Committee asked if the proposal were for an undergraduate certificate or a minor. While the Graduate School of Oceanography would like both approved, the proposal at hand was for the minor. The Committee, after discussion, approved the proposals for OCG 150, Coastal Oceanographic Data in RI Waters, OCG 350, Oceanographic Data Integration I, OCG 351, Oceanographic Data Integration II, and the Creation of a Minor of Proficiency in Ocean Data Science.

Chairperson Sullivan discussed that the Provost was amendable to funding training for Committee members in either May or August. Chairperson Sullivan requested anyone interested in mentoring or taking part to contact him.

A request was made to clarify the difference in tasks and approvals processes between the General Education Committee (GEC) and the Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC). Chairperson Sullivan explained the role of the CAC is to evaluate courses or programs to determine their validity in the scope of the major, degree, and mission of the University. The CAC determines if the courses and/or program changes are advantageous to the student’s program and do they fit in well in the spirit and goal of the curriculum. The GEC reviews and scrutinizes the
requested general education outcomes for the course; they verify that the syllabus reflects the outcomes adequately, and that the students will have fully and completely met the outcomes by the end of the course.
IV. OLD BUSINESS:
A. NEW COURSES:
The Committee discussed the expanded discussion on the experiential learning portion of BUS 249, Business of Innovation: Lean Startup. The proposal was approved.

The Committee reviewed the revised explanation of the lab component for CSF/CSC 462, Secure Programming. Upon further discussion the Committee decided that the justification of the 4 credits was insufficient and requested additional information. The Faculty Senate Office was asked to contact the proposer regarding the basis for the 4th credit. (See postscript.)

The proposal for the creation of MTH 453, Basic Random Processes, was reconsidered by the Committee having received letters from Computer Science and Statistics addressing overlap. The course was approved upon verification that the departmental letters would be forwarded to the Graduate Council.

B. COURSE CHANGES:
The Committee approved the change to the method of instruction from Practicum to Lecture, Practicum for EDC 250, Supervised Preprofessional Field Experience. The proposal was approved.

The Committee considered the changes in course number and prerequisite for PSY 435 (302), Applied Methods in Psychological Research. The proposal was approved.

C. ONLINE COURSES:
The Committee considered the proposals for online sections of AST 108, Introductory Astronomy: Stars and Galaxies and AST 118, Introductory Astronomy: The Solar System. The Committee approved the courses.

D. PROGRAM PROPOSALS:
The Committee considered the proposal for Changes to Psychology Bachelor of Science Program. With receipt of revisions and letters from Computer Science and Statistics, the Committee approved the proposal.

V. NEW BUSINESS:
A. NEW COURSES:
The Committee reviewed the proposal for the creation of AAF 230G, Black Lives Matter Movement. The Committee approved the course with 1 abstention. The course will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

The Committee considered the proposal for AAF 239G, Leadership in The African Diaspora. After discussion the course was approved with 1 abstention. The course will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

The Committee discussed the proposal for AAF / RLS 295, Religion in African American Thought & Culture. The Committee, with 1 abstention, approved the course. Chairperson Sullivan agreed to contact the proposer with some friendly reminders on the syllabus to expand upon the grading scale and remove the D-, add readings with page numbers, and verify that attendance and the final exam both count as 10% of the grade.
The Committee approved, with 1 abstention, the creation of new course, AVS 442, Physiology and Behavior of Marine Mammals.

The Committee discussed the proposal for BIO 181G, The Information Age: From Politics to Medicine. With 1 abstention, the Committee approved the proposal. The course will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

The Committee considered the proposal for the creation of BIO 308, The Invisible Living Ocean, formerly BIO 208X. After discussion the proposal was approved, with 1 member opposed.

The Committee considered the proposal for BIO 310, Bermuda Marine Biodiversity, formerly BIO 210X. After discussion the proposal was approved, with 1 member opposed.

The Committee discussed the proposal for CMB 260G, Sequencing Our Genomes: From Ancestry to Disease. The proposal was approved with 1 abstention. The course will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

The Committee reviewed the CMB 265G, Science and Pseudoscience proposal. With 1 abstention, the course was approved. The course will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

The proposal for the creation of CVE 325G, Connecting Dots: The Water-Energy-Health Nexus was discussed. The Committee voted to approve this course. The course will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

The Committee considered the proposal for DSP 393G, Introduction to Predictive Analytics. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the proposal for the creation of the DSP course code was coming up under the program proposals section of the agenda. The proposal was approved. The course will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

The Committee reviewed the proposal for HIS 318, The Jews: Religion and People. After discussion with 1 abstention, the proposal was approved. The course will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

The proposal for ISE 334, Simulation Modeling and Analysis was considered by the Committee and approved with 1 abstention.

The Committee discussed the proposal for the creation of ISE / SUS 461G, Solar Energy Systems. The course was approved and will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

The Committee considered the proposal for MCE 485, Solar Thermal Engineering. The proposal was approved.

The Committee discussed and approved the proposal for NUE 475, Measurements in Nuclear Engineering.

The Committee reviewed the proposal for creation of PHL 110G, Love and Sex. Concerns were expressed of the rationale for the course being 4 credits. The course was approved with 2 abstentions. The course will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

The Committee discussed the proposal for PHL 114, The Problem of Evil. Concerns of the 4 credits for this course were expressed. The Committee approved this course with 1 abstention. The course will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.
The proposal for the creation of **PRS 490, Practicum in Public Relations** was considered by the Committee. The Committee requested a reflective assignment be added to the course. Professor McClure was agreeable to that addition. The course was approved.

The Committee considered the proposal for **SAF 400G, Reimagining Food Systems Through Agroecology**. The proposal was approved with 1 abstention.

**B. COURSE CHANGES**
The Committee approved changing the prerequisites for **BUS 111, Introduction to Business Analysis and Application** and **BUS 320, Financial Management**.
The Committee considered the request to change the description and prerequisite for **BUS 359, Management Systems Analysis**. A friendly amendment was made to remove duplicate phrasing from the course description. The Faculty Senate Office was asked to contact the proposer. The Committee approved the changes. (See postscript)

The Committee reviewed the proposals to change the prerequisites for **CSC 211, Object-Oriented Programming** and **CSC 212, Data Structures and Abstractions**. The proposals were approved.

The Committee discussed the changes of title, **PHL 235, Modern Thought: Philosophy and Literature** to **Life/Death and Desire: Modern Philosophy and Literature**, credits from 3 to 4, and course description. The Committee debated the 4-credit issue, inquiring about the university rules and policies for 4 credit courses. The Committee did not approve this proposal with a vote of 1 abstention, 6 opposed, and 4 approved. Coordinator Neff was asked to follow up with the instructor of the course.

The Committee considered the proposal to change to number of credits from 2 to 3 and the prerequisite for **BIO 396, Biology and Society**. The proposal was approved.

The Committee reviewed the proposal to change the course code and title of **OCE 313, Computational Solutions of Ocean Engineering Problems** to **EGR 313, Computational Solutions of Engineering Problems**, as well as changing the course description and prerequisite. The Committee approved the course changes.

**C. CONSENT ITEMS:**

The Committee approved the change of prerequisites to the following courses:

- **BME/CHE 466, Biomaterials Engineering**
- **CVE 323G, Humanitarian Engineering** (course will be forwarded to General Education Committee)
- **SOC 440 (301), Sociological Research Methods**
- **SOC/PSC/CCJ 476, Policy Issues In Criminal Justice**

**D. ONLINE COURSES:**

The Committee approved the following courses for online instruction:

- **CLA 391, Ancient Laughter: The Comic Tradition in Greece and Rome**
- **CLA 397, Greek Myth and Tragedy**
- **PRS 100, Introduction to Public Relations**

The Committee discussed the proposal for an online section of **CVE 445, Sustainable Pavement Design**. Director Goldsmith informed the Committee that the instructor of CVE 445 had not finished the online training as of the date of the meeting. The Committee approved the course with a vote of 2 opposed, 7 approved, and 2 abstentions.

**E. PROGRAM PROPOSALS:**

**College of Arts and Sciences:**

The Committee considered the proposal for the **Creation of ASL (American Sign Language) course code**. The new course code was approved.
The Committee reviewed the proposals for Changes to the BA in Computer Science and Changes to the BS in Computer Science. The Committee approved the proposals.

The Committee discussed the proposals for the Creation of a DSP (Data Science Program) course code as well as the Creation of a BA, BS, and Minor in Data Science Program (DSP). The Committee approved these proposals.

The proposal for the Creation of Creative Writing Option for the English major was discussed and approved by the Committee.

**College of Business:**
The Committee considered 2 proposals for the Creation of a Business of Digital Media (BDM) Minor and the Creation of a Minor in Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship. Both proposals were approved.

The Committee voted to approve the proposal to Change the name of Entrepreneurial Management major to Management.

**College of Engineering:**
The Committee reviewed proposals for a Change to the Environmental Engineering Minor and Changes to BS in Industrial and Systems Engineering degree. The proposals were approved.

The Committee approved the proposal for the International Engineering Program transcript statements.

**College of the Environment and Life Sciences:**
The Committee reviewed, discussed, and approved the following proposals:
- Changes to the BA in Biology
- Changes to the BS in Biological Sciences
- Changes to the BS in Marine Biology
- Deletion of Interdisciplinary Biological Sciences Minor

**College of Nursing:**
The Committee considered the Change of admission GPA for RN to BS Online Program proposal. The proposal was approved.

**VI. DISCUSSION:**

A motion was made to have the FSEC review and discuss establishing a policy for evaluating new 4-credit courses and existing courses requesting to change to 4 credits.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Lawrence
POSTSCRIPT TO MARCH 27, 2017 MEETING

1) The Faculty Senate Office emailed the proposer on March 28, 2017 and requested an explanation of what will constitute the time for the 4th credit. The response from Professor DiPippo was forwarded to the Committee. The Committee did not approve the course.

2) The Faculty Senate Office emailed the proposer and Associate Dean. Both agreed to the removing of the duplicate wording from the course description.