2017

Curricular Affairs Committee Minutes September 25, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation
University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "Curricular Affairs Committee Minutes September 25, 2017" (2017). Faculty Senate Committee Reports and Appendices. Paper 125.
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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE
CURRICULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the first meeting of the 2017-2018 academic year

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. on Monday, September 25, 2017 in the Library Conference Room A, Chairperson Sullivan presiding.

The following members were present: Professors Baglama, Brand, Cardany, Dorado, Gordon, Izenstark, King, Loftus-Rattan, McClure, Swaszek, Director Goldsmith, and Vice Provost Beauvais. Ms. Neff, Faculty Senate Office, and My Vu, Student Senate, were also in attendance.

The following member was absent: Mr. John Rooney.

II. The Minutes of Meeting #7, March 27, 2017 were approved.

III. REPORTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. After asking Committee members to introduce themselves, Chairperson Sullivan distributed a 1-page listing of approval policies and procedures for the Curriculum Affairs Committee (see attached). The new procedures call for:

- proposals to be approved or not approved, no contingent approvals;
- if the proposal is not approved, the committee member with the objection will provide critiques to the chair;
- the Chair will communicate with the proposer and department chair, copying in the Faculty Senate office. The Chair will inform the proposer and department chair of the necessary changes and provide them with the procedures for submitting revisions;
- any revised materials will be reviewed by the Chair who will determine if the changes are sufficient and complete. If the revisions are lacking, the Chair will request additional information;
- the proposer and department chair will be provided with deadline information for revisions. If the deadline is not met, the proposal will not appear on the agenda until revisions have been received. Proposals submitted in one semester will expire at the end of the next semester, not including the summer. If the proposer and/or department chair can demonstrate that the proposal is undergoing active revisions, an exception may be made;
- the Chair will notify and forward any revised material to the Faculty Senate and have the revised proposal added to the next CAC agenda;
- the Faculty Senate Office will provide provisional CAC minutes to the Chair by the Monday following a meeting.

Chair Sullivan explained that these policies are intended to allow for proposers and department chairs to have a clear and individual source for information when proposals are not approved. He cited lack of volunteers, failures in the follow up process, and inadequate revisions as reasons for these changes. After discussion, a friendly amendment was made to point #1, regarding no contingent approvals; a motion was made and approved to allow for approving a course that may need very minor editorial changes made to the proposal form and/or the syllabus. Courses needing content revisions will not be approved.
b. Ms. Neff announced that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee had discussed and approved allowing any faculty member to propose and/or change courses. The Faculty Member Responsible for Course required on course proposal forms no longer needs to be a tenure-track faculty member. Lecturers, clinical faculty, and Part-Time faculty members may propose courses and course changes. However, staff members are not allowed to propose new courses or changes to courses.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:
A. NEW COURSES:

The Committee reviewed the proposal for the creation of ARB 315, Topics in Arabic Culture & Society in Arabic. After discussion, with a friendly suggestion that the course seat time and recitation information be added to the syllabus, the course was approved.

The Committee considered the proposal for the creation of ARB 415, Adv Topics in Arab Culture & Society in Arabic. After discussion, with a friendly suggestion that the course seat time and recitation information be added to the syllabus, the course was approved.

The Committee discussed the proposals for BIO 220, Fundamentals of Human Anatomy and Physiology I (3 crs.), BIO 221, Fundamentals of Human Anatomy and Physiology I Laboratory (1 cr.), BIO 222, Fundamentals of Human Anatomy and Physiology II (3 crs.), and BIO 223, Fundamentals of Human Anatomy and Physiology II Laboratory (1 cr.). These new courses will replace BIO 121 (4 crs.) and BIO 242 (3 crs.) and 244 (1 cr.). A concern was expressed that the effective date of spring 2018 would adversely affect students who had begun the BIO121, 242/244 sequence requirements. The courses were approved contingent upon changing the start date to fall 2018.

The Committee reviewed the creation of BIO 256G, Risking our Reefs: Human Impacts on Ecosystem Builders. The proposal was approved and will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

The Committee considered the proposal for BIO/DSP 439, Big Data Analysis. Concerns of overlap were discussed. A request to add MTH 141 to the prerequisite was made, as students in the Data Science program must take MTH 141. The course was approved contingent upon the change to the pre-requisite statement.

The proposal for CMB 460, Experimental Approaches in Molecular and Cell Biology was discussed and approved. The proposal will be forwarded to the Graduate Council.

The Committee discussed the proposal for CSC/DSP 310, Programming for Data Science. Concerns of cross-listing a course within the same department were discussed. For instance, the College of Arts and Sciences allows students in BA majors to take a maximum of 15 credits in their major area in excess of the total required for that major. Concern was expressed that cross-listed courses within the same department allow students to circumvent the 15-credit rule. The syllabus lacked measurable outcomes, and assignment descriptions and due dates. The proposal was tabled and sent back to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee for discussion.

The Committee reviewed the proposal for ECN 358, Globalization and National Economies. The proposal form lacked the impact statement information, the syllabus lacked focus, and the online teaching form lacked demonstration of competency. The proposal was not approved. The Chair indicated that he would follow up with the proposer.
The Committee considered the creation of HPR 224G, **Honors Colloquium in Soc. Science and Civic Knowledge**. The Committee approved the proposal, which will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposal for MAF 310X, **Communication for Marine Affairs**. The proposal was approved.

The Committee discussed the proposal for SOC / APG 475G, **Reproduction in Society**. Issues concerning the cross-listing of courses within the same department were expressed. The proposal was not approved and sent back to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee.

**B. COURSE CHANGES**

The Committee considered the change to the course title and cross-listing of LIN 420, **Second Language Acquisition**, to LIN / EDC 420, **Second Language Acquisition and Assessment**. The proposal was not approved due to concerns of the assessment portion as there was no syllabus available for review. The Chair indicated that he would follow up with the proposer.

The proposals for change the course descriptions for EEC 432, **Environmental & Resource Economics and Policy**, and GEO 100G, **Environmental Geology**, were approved by the Committee. These proposals will be forwarded to the General Education Committee.

The Committee reviewed the proposal to change the prerequisite for CVE 370, **Hydraulic Engineering**. The proposal was approved.

**E. PROGRAM PROPOSALS:**

**College of Arts and Sciences:**

The Committee considered the proposal for changes to the **Medical Physics BS program**. Changes include removing the statement from catalog relating to students taking exam required for CAMPEP accredited residency program, shifting the number of general education credits during the sophomore year, and correcting catalog copy with previously approved legislation. The Committee approved the proposal.

**College of the Environment and Life Sciences:**

The Committee reviewed, discussed, and approved the **Creation of a Milestone for the Peace Corps Prep program**. This will allow the milestone to be posted to the student’s official University transcript.

**College of Education and Professional Studies:**

The Committee discussed the proposal to increase the number of credits from 118 to 120 for the Bachelor of **Interdisciplinary Studies** and subsequent changes to the **University Manual, Chapter 8.21.10**. This allows the BIS program to be in compliance with the NEASC regulations. The Committee approved the proposed credit change and University Manual changes.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. NEW COURSES:**

As no revisions for CSF/CSC 462, **Secure Programming**, had been received no Committee deliberation took place.
B. COURSE CHANGES:
As no revisions or updated information for changing the title, number of credits, and description had been received for PHL 235, Modern Thought: Philosophy and Literature (3 crs.) changing to PHL 235, Life/Death and Desire: Modern Philosophy and Literature (4 crs.), no Committee deliberation took place.

VI. DISCUSSION:
Ms. Neff explained to the Committee that she was gathering CAC “Rules” and procedures that had been discussed and reviewed in previous meetings. She explained that with Committee members cycling off and on the Committee, it would be advisable to have a listing of the “Rules” devised and discussed. The Committee believed this to be a valuable and needed enterprise.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Lawrence