

**THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE**

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE & GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Minutes for 2009-2010 Meeting #5 – January 14, 2010**

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon. on Thursday, January 14, 2010, in Conference Room A in the Library. Chairperson Hicks presiding.

The following members were present: Professors English, Hicks, Larsen, Leveillee, Maier-Speredelozzi, Roth, Meagher Smith, Stevenson and von Reinhart; Vice Provost Beauvais; Dean Richmond; Ms. Rohland. Dr. Hubbard served as Associate Dean Quina's designee.

Guests: Professor DiCioccio, Chair of the Ad Hoc Task Force on General Education and Ms. Lyons, University College.

2. The Minutes of Meeting #4, December 3, 2009, were approved
3. New Proposals

A. LIB 220 was approved for the Letters (L) Core area as follows:

LIB 220 Issues of the Information Age (*speaking effectively, using information technology, and writing effectively*)

- B. Following discussion of the General Education Task Force's Grand Challenges Proposal and the New Course Proposal forms for the GCH courses, as well as the syllabus guidelines, revised general education proposal form for the Grand Challenges courses, approval process, and background information and rationale to be forwarded to the Curricular Affairs Committee, the topics courses were approved as follows:

GCH 101 Grand Challenges in Fine Arts and Literature for the (A) core area
GCH 102 Grand Challenges in Letters for the (L) core area
GCH 103 for Grand Challenges in Natural Sciences for the (N) core area
GCH 104 for Grand Challenges in Social Sciences for the (S) core area

Topics to be approved with 3 of the integrated skills (examine human differences, read complex texts, speak effectively, use of artistic activity, use of qualitative data, use of quantitative data, use of information technology, write effectively) as determined by the Task Force and approved by the UCGE Committee.

4. Recommendation from the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee to remove ENG 241, 242, 251,252 from the General Education Program.

It was agreed that no action was required except for an effective date - students entering Fall 2010.

5. Revised General Education Proposal from the College of Engineering

Following discussion, the revised proposal from the College of Engineering dated January 8, 2010 was approved.

6. Unfinished Business - Information Literacy and guidelines for other skills

Professor Larson said that the Information Literacy skill was almost ready for recommending approval. He reminded the committee members that there had been discussion at the previous meeting about expanding the definitions of the remaining integrated skills. He asked for volunteers to work with him on the integrated.

7. New Business

- A. Chairperson Hicks said that it was time for the UCGE Committee to look seriously into revising the General Education Program. She urged the committee to look at a modification of the general education program to accommodate the grand challenges proposal, the move of many programs to reduce requirements to 120 credits and the expected increase in 4-credit courses.

Ms. Grubman noted that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has asked for an interim proposal to accommodate the changes being considered.

Professor Maier-Speredelozzi said that she had drafted some ideas and Ms. Grubman agreed to put them on the SAKAI website.

Chairperson Hicks said that an initial step was to determine what most members of the committee agreed was the philosophy behind the URI general education program.

Professor Stevenson said that the program had to be assessed and decisions about general education should be based on assessment. He noted that an assessment process should develop from the beginning, hopefully based on what has been learned so far.

Chairperson Hicks urged that members review the programs from other institutions that had been gathered earlier in the year and to think about them in the context of a philosophy of general education for URI. She also the committee to think about 1 and 2 credit courses as well as 3 and 4 credits.

- B. Dr. Hubbard moved that the UCGE Committee strongly urge the Provost to sponsor campus-wide discussions of 4-credit issues. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Black Grubman