

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE
February 23, 2017

Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee
Five Hundred and Thirty-Eighth Report

At the January 30, 2017 meeting of the Curricular Affairs Committee and by electronic communication, the following matters were considered and are now presented to the Faculty Senate.

SECTION I
Informational Matters

ONLINE COURSES

The CAC has approved the following courses for online offering:

AVS 101, Introduction to Animal Science
ECN 328, Intermediate Economic Theory: Pricing and Distribution

SECTION II
Curricular Matters Which Require Confirmation by the
Faculty Senate

COURSE CHANGES

A. COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES:

Change description and prerequisite:

MTH 131, Applied Calculus I

(3 crs.) Basic topics in calculus for students who do not need all the topics in 141. Limits, derivatives, and integrals of algebraic, logarithmic, exponential, and trigonometric functions. Applications including graphing, maxima and minima problems, etc. (Lec. 3/Online) Pre: passing a placement test or C- or better in MTH 103 or MTH 111. Not for major credit in mathematics. Not open to students with credit or concurrent enrollment in 141. (A1) (B3)

B. COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES:

Change prerequisite:

NRS 305, Principles of Wildlife Ecology and Management

(3 crs.) Application of ecological knowledge to the management of wild vertebrate populations and the habitat upon which they depend. (Lec. 3) Pre: NRS 223 and BIO 101 and 102.

PROGRAM CHANGES

A. COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES:

a. Changes to Hunger Studies Minor: (See Appendix A)

The overall structure and general requirements for the Hunger Studies minor will remain the same, however changes at the level of the courses approved for the minor are necessary. First, one of the core courses, HSS/PSY 130 (now HSS/PSY 130G) has been modified and approved for the new general education program. The course fully covers the Social and Behavioral Sciences and Civic Knowledge and Responsibility learning outcomes. In addition, the courses listed as approved electives for the Hunger studies minor have been updated in order to reflect changes in course offerings over time, and changes in courses that have been modified or proposed and approved for the new general education program.

Courses to be removed from the list of approved electives are: CPL 210, CPL/NRS 300 HDF 498, HSS 120, PLS 305, and PSC 221.

Courses to be added to the list of approved electives are: AFS/AVS/PLS 132G or AFS/AVS/PLS 132GH, COM/SUS 108G, GWS/APG/SOC 308, NFS 212G, PSC 113, and SOC 212. Corresponding department chairs were contacted and permission was granted to include each of these courses in the list of approved electives for the Hunger Studies Minor. In addition, NFS 276 has been updated in the course list to NFS 276G. Catalog language and content has been modified to reflect these changes below.

b. Change to requirements and total number of credits for the Bachelor of Music in Composition: (See Appendix B)

Currently music students who major in composition study a primary instrument for eight semesters and four semesters of study of a secondary instrument, in addition to seven semesters of applied study in composition. The faculty agreed that composition is rigorous music study that should be treated as study of a primary instrument. Changes reflect addressing shifting focused and primary study of composition from a performing instrument and maintaining the secondary instrument requirements to align better with a major in performance on an instrument. Increases in MUS 300 and number of applied lessons in composition also align better with the performance degree. Finally the changes reduce the credits required from 124 to 120.

B. ALAN SHAWN FEINSTEIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES:

Change in Undergraduate Admissions GPA Requirement for Education Majors: (See Appendix C)

A proposed change to the undergraduate teacher education programs raises the minimum GPA for admission from a 2.50 overall GPA to a 2.75 overall GPA at time of application to the program.

This change is required to remain in compliance with the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) teacher preparation program admissions standards. RIDE has recently mandated that teacher education programs must implement a minimum GPA for admission of 2.75 (see Appendix A).

This requirement is consistent with our accrediting agency, the Council for the Accreditation for Educator Preparation (CAEP), language (see Appendix B).

C. COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING:

Change credits for Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering: (See Appendix D)

Under URI's new General Education criteria the senior capstone sequence, BME 484 and 485 (5 credits total), has recently been approved for the General Education Outcome designation of "Integrate and Apply" (D1). Given the General Education Outcomes satisfied by the established requirements of the BME program, and the stated flexibility of the new general education requirements allowing satisfaction of 1 or 2 outcomes within a single course, the Department feels confident students can complete all BME degree requirements within 120-121 credits. Therefore, the currently required 3 credits above the minimum required for BS degree conferral (120) appears unnecessary. The program therefore requests to reduce its required credit total from the current 123-124 credits to 120-121 credits.

D. COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES:

New Bioinformatics Track Option in the Program of Cell and Molecular Biology: (See Appendix E)

This proposal aims to establish a new Bioinformatics track within the Cell and Molecular Biology Major in the URI Department of Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB). CMB is a teaching and research department representing several broad disciplines in molecular biosciences: biochemistry, microbiology, molecular biology, molecular genetics, and medical laboratory science. The department is based in both Kingston and at the URI Providence Biotechnology Center. On the Kingston campus, we currently offer a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Cell and Molecular Biology with four tracks: Microbiology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, and General. We train graduate students in Cell and Molecular Biology as part of the CMB Specialization in the Biological and Environmental Sciences (BES) program. The department proposes to add a Bioinformatics track to our undergraduate program.