Call to Order: 12:06 p.m.

Executive Committee Report - Calendar 2015-2016 Update
http://hdl.handle.net/1850/17172

M. Laver shared that the Calendar Committee had worked on a new proposed calendar for 2015-2016 during Intersession, having collected and reviewed the feedback received from senate and other governance groups. See link above to the newly proposed calendar, version 2. Joe Loffredo, RIT Registrar was thankful for all the feedback from senate and from others at the Institute and the following concerns were taken care of with this new proposal:

- Missing Thursday and Friday
- Fall will have a muse day, which falls on Columbus Day
- Will work on the exam situation that falls during commencement
- The President had said after three years the calendar again will be looked at by the Institute

Comments/Q&A:
Q: Is there a need to look at 2141 and 2145?  
A: No, not in our opinion.

Motion to endorse the proposed version 2 calendar for 2015-2016 passed with 2 abstentions.

Communication Officer's Report: Minutes of 12/19/2013 are approved. http://hdl.handle.net/1850/17170

With having double the amount of meetings this spring semester, it was discussed and agreed upon that minutes for Spring 2014 will be more terse. If any of the senators feel something of importance was left out that is not in the minutes please contact Michael Richmond/Vivian Gifford.

New/Old Business

Graduate Grade Policy Proposals
PPt Presentation and the Policies (R/U/I and S/U/I): http://hdl.handle.net/1850/17173

Joseph Hornak, Graduate Council Chair presented two Graduate Grade Policy proposals as follows:

1. Proposal to add the options of U and I to the R (registered) grade for research and thesis projects – U (Unsatisfactory) and I (Incomplete)  
Note: The current system rewards no effort on thesis or research and this can put a burden on research budgets. The intent is not to penalize students whose science or project is not working, but to send a message to students who are not putting in effort. Approved by Graduate Council with one abstention.
2. Proposal to allow certain graduate level seminar classes currently graded ABCDF to be graded S/U/I. The S grade carries no quality points. The U grade carries no credit and the course must be repeated. The I grade in S/U/I course changes to U if not removed. Approved by Graduate Council unanimously.

Comments/Q&A:

- H. Shahmohamad: Per slide 6, is the 10% limit on S/U courses grandfathered for current students?
  J. Hornak: We have not given that question thought yet 10% is the cap.
  Q: Can a program director exceed 10%?
  A: No.

- S. Boedo: In Mechanical Engineering the thesis committee guides a graduate student and who will assign the grade?
  A: Whoever is currently responsible for issuing the “R” grade would be responsible for the R/U/I grade.
  Keep in mind that one can simply assign “R” to all students.

- H. Ghazle: What is the real penalty for receiving a “U” grade?
  A: A student does not earn research credits, so in receiving a “U” they must repeat those credits.
  H. Ghazle: How much time do they have to repeat a credit.
  A: For an Incomplete they have the amount agreed to the incomplete contract or two semesters. For a U they must amass the credits before graduating.

- J. Goldowitz: Is there a limit on the total number of credits a student can earn under S/U/I?
  A: Yes, 10%.

- J. Voelkel: If a student earns a “U”, could that affect an advisor’s grant?
  A: Yes, it could mean that the grant would have to pray for the student again or the advisor could say that the grant will not pay for the student to take the course again.

- J. Voelkel: What do other universities do in this area with grades?
  A: There are many different approaches.

Motion to approve the proposed Grade Proposals for Graduate Students (R/U/I grades and S/U/I Grades) passed unanimously.

ILI (Innovation Learning Institute) Presentation

PPt of ILI Presentation: [http://hdl.handle.net/1850/17175](http://hdl.handle.net/1850/17175)

Neil Hair, Interim Executive Director of ILI gave a presentation on ILI before the advanced On-Line certificate was discussed again today and before another vote taken on this proposal as it did not pass for approval on December 19, 2013. Michael Laver said there were many questions and having the proposal days before the senate meeting did not give sufficient time for senators to review the proposal in greater depth. Neil Hair with his presentation today wanted to address some of the senate’s concerns of the proposed Advanced On-Line Certificate.

The following points were made but for more details of the presentation see link above to the PPt.

- Online Education is a strategic imperative
- A 4-course sequence of courses with 25 students could return $80,000 to the department
- Our primary market for online students are adults returning to learning (Graduate level and RIT Alumni, ages 25 to late 40’s)
- The ILI has been partnering with many on campus to deliver on its strategy (Wellness, Counseling, Billing, Registrar, EMCS, F&A, Wallace etc.)
- It is a virtual campus with reduced tuition costs
- A range of certificates are offered
- ILI has created an interdisciplinary field and free-electives from CLA have been approved that will work with the CIAS advanced certificate.
- Graduate certificates online can move to Graduate Council for approval
Largest proportion of online students prefers courses that are 6-8 weeks long and the courses will be developed in partnership with faculty to guarantee rigor and quality

We want to raise the level of Online Learning at RIT

Developed Peer Assessment processes

There are checks and balances in place that ensure quality and rigor including extensive efforts of the Teaching and Learning Services of the ILI

We want Online Learning to come back to life at RIT.

Discussion and Q&A ensued.

J. Goldowitz: There is support for online students (library, on-line concierge, and saving the overhead costs) but how do you save money while offering these features?

N. Hair: We spent 1.5 years studying this question and research went into this.

Jackie Taylor, Director of Partnerships: In addition to the variable return that Neil summarized, there are central operational expenses in support of RIT Online. Neil has done a thorough review of his organization and made reallocations of his existing budgets to meet his business requirements. There is a business model in place that returns a profit by year three.

T. Engstrom: Using the word “concierge” sounds more like marketing and doesn’t resonate with the academy. Can we use a language more directly related to the academy?

N. Hair: Yes, that is true but we are looking at the market and need to provide what the market wants. “Concierge” means the level of service a student will receive. I am not sure of the answer but am sensitive to this.

P. Darragh: Could on-campus undergraduate students access on-line course materials?

N. Hair: We are looking to leverage all the materials, but we must be careful to prevent entire course materials from being made public. I would like to provide all of our students ultimately with the services that the Virtual Campus would offer.

G. Hintz: Will course content go through regular curriculum review?

A: Yes. No change.

G. Hintz: Can people take courses for less money for no credit?

A: We are exploring this.

V. Serravallo: Will departments be given sufficient resources?

A: Yes.

S. Manian Ramkumar: Do faculty contact the ILI or does the ILI solicit proposals from faculty?

A: Combination of the two and we reach out to the department chairs. The ILI knows of areas of particular expertise and where there is high demand.

M. Richmond: Do your studies include 2-4 week courses?

A: Studies have looked at 5-week courses but I am not aware of any that looked at 2-4 week courses.

K. Mousley: Are there any negative consequences to moving online?

A: Yes, we need nine months to communicate about the online courses, and it is important to get this to market. The sooner it gets to market the sooner to reinvesting revenue.

Comments or concerns regarding this presentation and the work of ILI can be sent directly to Neil Hair at nfhbbu@rit.edu.


PPT Presentation of this program proposal: http://hdl.handle.net/1850/17174

Joseph Hornak, Graduate Council Chair reviewed briefly the proposed advanced on-line certificate in User Experience Design and Development from CIAS, as this had been presented at the 12/19/2013 AS meeting and was returning again today for discussion and vote. No changes were made to the program since the last presentation in December. Present also were Neil Hair, Interim Executive Director of ILI; and Adam Smith, New Media Design Program Chair. Graduate Council had approved this certificate unanimously with a vote of 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.
Adam Smith, New Media Design Program Chair, said the course content for the online courses come from our regular courses and we are driven by requests from our students. We do have support from RIT to provide these courses.

Michael Laver, AS chair brought up three major questions that arose at the 12/19/2013 AS meeting.
1. This proposal had not been discussed with constituents.
2. The documents were distributed to senators two days before the 12/19 senate meeting, not giving enough time to review the proposal for the vote on 12/19.
3. There was confusion over ILI’s role with this certificate.

Discussion and Q&A ensued.

- T. Policano: What are the pre-requisites for this certificate?
  A. Smith: We are building the courses for this program in a much more open way. There are no specific portfolio pre-requisites. The students or professionals can come from diverse backgrounds (i.e. from companies or professions such as visual designer, ux designer, project lead, marketing etc.) or other RIT online programs.

- T. Policano: What does “development” mean in the title of this program and how can a 4-credit course cover both design and development?
  A. Smith: The primary focus of this course is on the design side. Development is included as there are development aspects and we see this across many disciplines with the use of the word design. Development is not necessarily creating a computer program. “Development” is a viable word in the industry for project creation from concept to creation. In addition, understanding the basic frameworks and technologies around interface design and user experiences are critical for the success of a project.

- T. Policano: I think the word “Development” is inappropriate for what you are offering.
  A. Phelps: I don’t think “development” is inappropriate in the title of this program. “Development” in CIAS is consistent with the current meaning. There are many tools and methodologies available for designers. One doesn’t need to go down to a low-level of computing. Having worked with Adam Smith’s program, I don’t find the title misleading.

- S. Hoi: Could this certificate lead toward a degree and what is the admission standard for this certificate?
  A. Smith: Yes, RIT will accept these credits for students who desire to go further into a degree program. There is no additional portfolio requirement for this program and admissions into this program mirror the admissions requirements into RIT. Currently the MFA program in Visual Communications Design will accept the credits and students within the RIT Online MS Professional Studies program can use the credits as a concentration. Additional programs are evaluating the courses for transfer.

- S. Boedo: How is this certificate valued outside of RIT as earlier it was said that the field is in a chaotic flux?
  A. Smith: The value is in the skills you gain from taking the courses. The main target are those who have been in the field and are seeking direct career enhancement. The advanced certificate is targeting working professional with design or visual communication experiences. The certificate offers the 3 courses to help build upon and updated those skills.

- J. Goldowitz: Concerned about two different precedents:
  1. This certificate was voted down and now is returning to senate.
  2. Eight-week accelerated courses – A student could take 4 courses serially in two semesters, but could also take two 15-week courses per semester. So why not make them 15 weeks and tell students to take two at a time? What students want is not necessarily what we should offer.
  A. Smith: These courses involve 7 contact hours per week, so they contain the same number of hours as a 15-week course.

- P. Darragh: I have enjoyed accelerated courses. There are some benefits to 8-week courses from a student’s point of view.

- J. Pelz: Will the electives be offered in accelerated online form?
  A. Smith: Yes, in a rotating basis regularly during a specific semester and only three can be transferred.
• Dean Lorraine Justice: CIAS was approached by ILI about the content that we have taught for a long time. This is a certificate (not a degree) which is good for our alumni.

• G. Hintz: Can people outside the certificate program take these courses?
  Adam Smith: No, on-campus students won’t be able to take these courses.
  N. Hair: We could open up special additional sections for on-campus students.

• T. Jefferson: He had a concern with this program not having any pre-requisites as people with no experience could sign up for this certificate.
  A. Smith: The graduate level admittance does allow for a range of students. We currently bring Golisano students with no background in design or art into programs and have been doing so effectively for 13 years. We don’t plan to create any special preparation for this program. We do have an orientation material and resources for beginning (regular) students. We might be able to adapt those for online students. Again the main target group of this certificate are working professionals that hope to advance and develop their skills. However, we have the ability to open these courses up to a larger audience by not requiring a portfolio. The track record between shared courses between GCCIS and CIAS highlights this success.

• M. Laver suggested this be reviewed for a week and then brought back to senate for a vote.

• T. Engstrom: He agreed with J. Goldowitz in that a “no” vote from senate should mean “no” and is not confusion but can be our voice. We need to vote on if we are willing to vote again on this certificate program.

• S. Manian Ramkumar said specific comments and concerns from the previous presentation in December were not addressed today and asked that the summary of concerns and how they are addressed be provided.

• B. Walence: We have an EMBA 6-week program; 5-week summer sessions and 3-week intersession courses. The state has accredited accelerated programs for 25 years. The concerns about quality rests with the faculty and we need to trust each other.

• J. Voelkel: Are all online courses going to be offered in an accelerated 8-week format?
  N. Hair: No, the faculty teaching the course will decide.

• Provost Haefner: What are the senate’s expectations for next week?
  M. Laver: According to Roberts Rules, we can have a motion to re-consider voting on this proposal and at the start of next week’s AS meeting we will take a vote on whether the Academic Senate will re-consider voting on this and if this passes we will vote on the certificate program again.

• H. Shahmohamad: How many times if a motion is struck down should it return to senate? It is very important to set (or not to set) a precedent on re-consideration of motions which have been rejected.

• K. McDonald: How should clarifying materials on this issue (what S. Manian Ramkumar had requested) be distributed?
  S. Manian Ramkumar: It should be sent in advance of the AS meeting.

• G. Hintz: There are many existing graduate programs that don’t have on-line courses available to allow students to complete their degrees.
  J. Hornak: We are considering that issue.

E5.0 (Policies on Tenure)
New E5.0 Distributed: http://hdl.handle.net/1850/17165 ; PPt presentation of E5.0: http://hdl.handle.net/1850/17176

Jeff Pelz, FAC sub-committee co-chair reviewed E5.0 thus far. [See links above to PPt and updated E5.0]

• Thus far Motions 1-6 have been approved.
  • Motion 7 involves lines 450-616.
  • The new E5.0 incorporates all approved changes from Motions 1-6 and includes suggested changes highlighted (using strikethrough and underscore).
  • The Provost agreed to the proposed changes of text lines 605-609 as revised (under Granting or Denial of Tenure).

Adjournment: 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Richmond, Communications Officer
Vivian Gifford, AS Senior Staff Assistant