

RIT | Faculty Senate

Intercollege Curriculum Committee (ICC) AY 2022-2023 Final Report

Committee members:

Jennifer Bailey (KGCOE), Jessica Bayliss (GCCIS), Leonie Fernandes (SOIS), Elizabeth Hane (COS), Lorraine Hems (SCB), Mark Indelicato (CET), Chris Licata (Provost's delegate, ex-officio, voting), Uli Linke (CLA), Jason Listman (NTID), Heidi Nickisher, Chair (CAD), S. Manian Ramkumar (CET; Deans' delegate), Carla Stebbins (CHST), Sharron Webster (NTID; Faculty Senate at-large rep), Sarah Thompson (Chair, Gen. Ed. Committee.; Ex-officio, non-voting), and Gretchen Wainwright (Chair, University Writing Committee. Ex-officio, non-voting).

Mandate from Policy B2.0:

The Inter-College Curriculum Committee shall study undergraduate curricular proposals from an institute-wide perspective, maintain appropriate inter-college relationships with regards to curriculum, assure that existing undergraduate curricula are periodically reviewed, and make proposals to the Faculty Senate for undergraduate curriculum approval or discontinuance. The Inter-College Curriculum Committee shall consist of eight members, each to be elected by his or her collegial faculty, one representative elected at large by the Faculty Senate, one representative from the academic deans, one representative from Student Government, and the provost or his or her delegate (ex officio, voting). Whenever a particular curriculum proposal is being considered in the Senate, the Dean(s) of the respective college(s) making the proposal shall be invited to be present and to speak.

Status on Charges for AY2022-2023:

The ICC did not entirely complete all its assigned charges, although at least one was given with the knowledge that it would/could take several years to do so. Below is a summary of the work performed by the ICC during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Charge #1: Investigate approaches and policy changes to reduce duplication in course development.

Response: This charge was discussed in tandem with ICC Charge #2 (below). It is our belief that the only way that the proposed process (and policy modifications) can work is to have a curriculum management system in place. Such a system will provide an inventory of all courses that will facilitate searching the University course database for similar course titles and content. Therefore, ICC would like to recommend proposed changes to D01.0 but contingent upon having a curriculum management system in place. We hope that the Faculty Senate will approve “in concept” but with the full knowledge and faith that policy D01.0 will need to be returned for a vote once a curriculum management system is in operation. **This charge will carry-over to the next academic year.**

Charge #2: Consult with appropriate committees (Including Grad Council and RABC) and administrators (including Provost Office/Academic Affairs) to investigate and develop policies needed to support effective curriculum management in the context of ABB budgeting at RIT. Report to Senate, with policy changes as needed.

Response: While official notification about when or if ABB is to be implemented has yet to be announced, the committee investigated potential policy changes needed to support effective curriculum management. Following a suggestion from the provost, the committee reviewed aspects of the University of Washington ABB model and drafted a series of modifications to the course proposal process that address course duplication and overlap. (See Response to Charge #1, above.)

Charge #3: Work with DEIC to evaluate and report on RIT’s curricular offerings from the DEI perspective, making recommendations to the Senate as necessary.

Response: To assist in helping RIT define and/or understand what inclusive curriculum looks like, the DEIC and ICC “interviewed” a curriculum consultant from San Diego State University, Norah Shultz, who gave a presentation on 17 February 2023 entitled, “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Across the Curriculum: Working within Disciplines and Meeting Faculty Where They Are.” Subsequently, the DEIC would like to use Dr. Shultz to develop a plan for RIT to move forward with a series of recommended actions. At the present time, neither committee is suggesting anything specific with regard to policy recommendations, other than requesting that bona fide resources be provided to help faculty create more inclusive curriculum. The latter must be accompanied by a directive from upper administration.

Charge #4: Study undergraduate curricular proposals from a university-wide perspective, maintain appropriate inter-college relationships with regards to curriculum, assure that existing undergraduate curricula are reviewed, and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate for action on proposals of new and significantly modified undergraduate programs.

Response: This charge is one of the two primary functions of the ICC that it is charged with every year.

During the AY 2022-2023, ICC reviewed the following curricula: five (5) proposals for minors and two (2) academic programs. The titles of the proposals are listed below with reported action taken by ICC or approval dates.

Minors:

- CHST Forensic Clinical Psychology – approved by ICC 2/2/22; approved by the provost 3/19/23
- SCB Real Estate in Hospitality – approved by ICC 3/28/23; approved by the provost 4/2/23
- CLA Cyberpolitics – approved by ICC 4/21/23; approved by the provost for approval 4/24/23
- NTID Dance – approved by ICC 3/28/23; approved by the provost 4/24/23
- NTID ASL Performance – approved by ICC 3/28/23; approved by the provost 4/24/23

Academic Degree Programs:

- CLA – new BS in Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies; notice of approval by the Faculty Senate sent to Academic Affairs 2/2/23 for submission to NYSED.
- CHST – new BS in Global Public Health; notice of approval by the Faculty Senate sent to Academic Affairs 3/23/23 for submission to NYSED.

Charge #5: Review RIT policies that impact undergraduate curriculum that are brought to the committee’s attention and propose revisions to policy and to practice (specifically including the future implementation of periodic review of existing programs) as appropriate to the Faculty Senate.

Response: This is one of the primary functions of the ICC that it is charged with every year. Regarding the future review and implementation of policies that affect undergraduate curriculum, we have identified an inconsistency in the minor revision policy. Specifically, section III in D1.0 specifies what constitutes a change that requires ICC approval but section IV in D1.1 Minors Policy does not. **This remains an item to be updated.**