INFO

- The Curriculum Conversion Process Committee (CCPC) met on 1/24: We discussed 1) tracking of courses not yet approved, which are part of a program mask that gets approved 2) Forms used when seeking Gen Ed approvals 3) In College Project Communication Team (as mentioned in previous SC Wkly Update) - http://www.rit.edu/conversion/media/documents/SC_Update_1_14_11.pdf

Approval Tracking

Anyone at RIT can view conversion material such as completed program conversion forms, Course outline forms - service courses, Gen Ed courses, etc. – which are located in each of the college conversion shells inside myCourses. Use the guest password located on page 6 of the Program Conversion Process Directions https://www.rit.edu/conversion/media/documents/packet/SC_Directions.pdf.

Program Coordinators: please note that you will need to do this later, to ensure that the courses cited in your programs but whose homes reside in other colleges, do eventually receive the college curriculum approvals and/or Gen Ed approvals as you expect them to.

Gen Ed Forms

If the course is pre-existing (marked as SE or SR in section 2a of the course outline) AND was approved for GenEd in the past, then you can enter the course into a spreadsheet – the GEC can then review pre-existing courses as a batch. Once you’ve entered the info, you can just send Elizabeth Hane the spreadsheet. All of the accompanying course outlines should be in the “Approved and Awaiting GenEd review” folder on your myCourses curriculum committee shell. That way if Gen Ed Committee has questions, they can access the course outline there.

If the course is NEW or if it was pre-existing but NOT GenEd in the past, then you will need to fill out the “General Education Approval Form.” The form gets posted along with the outline in the same “Awaiting review” folder. Both forms are on this page: http://www.rit.edu/conversion/facstaff_education.php

In College Project Communication Teams

So far Associate Deans from CIAS, NTID, KGCOE have formed their teams

- The following programs have been recently reviewed by Grad Council:
  - CIAS - MFA in Industrial Design
The following programs have been recently reviewed by ICC:
  o CIAS – Digital Cinema
  o CAST – Computer Engineering Technology
  o CAST – Electrical Engineering Technology
  o GCCIS – Medical Informatics

INCOMING Q & A:

Q: How will the conversion from Q to S affect my graduation? Will I be able to graduate on time?

A: To those students who stay on track with their programs The President pledged that no student will suffer any loss of progress toward a degree during the transition; no student’s graduation will be delayed as we make the change from quarters to semesters. Faculty, staff and university administrators have been working since the announcement of the calendar conversion was made February 2010 on programs and procedures to ensure that we uphold the President’s pledge.

Q: What will I gain from the semester conversion? Are there any compromises?

A: Conversion to semesters is already well underway; the project is at full steam across the campus. Our Go Live date is August 26, 2013. The most important reason for RIT’s conversion to semesters is to positively impact the quality of the educational experience that our students receive. These include:

1. The semester calendar is the most widely used model at colleges and universities in the United States and other parts of the world, and the adoption of a semester calendar at RIT will greatly facilitate our interactions with other institutions in such areas as research, credit transfer, student exchange, and study abroad opportunities for our students.
2. The semester calendar will allow the scheduling of winter and spring breaks at times similar to those currently in place at other institutions.
3. There is a potential for improved student retention and graduation rates because semesters are 5 weeks longer than quarters, and entering freshmen will have a longer period to adjust to college before final exams than in the current 10-week quarter system. In addition, students will have greater opportunities to recover from absences due to illnesses and other interruptions in their studies because of the longer duration of semesters.
4. The elimination of the winter quarter disruption by the December holiday break should help in student retention since the rate of course failures earned by students at RIT is highest during the Winter quarter than in any other term of our current calendar.
5. A semester calendar will allow for the possibility of a true Rochester area academic common market as all other institutions in the area are on semester calendars.
6. The semester calendar will allow for the offering of an optional 3-week January intersession.
7. The recent move of several other universities (e.g. Cincinnati, Northeastern) with strong co-op programs from quarters to semesters provides persuasive evidence that the move can be accomplished while sustaining this critical component of most of our programs.

Q: Will I still have the same selection of coursework? Professional electives?

A: In the 5 x 3 semester calendar we chose, students will normally take five 3-credit courses each semester; a 3-credit semester course will meet three hours a week for 15 weeks, or 45 hours per semester. On the other hand, in the quarter calendar students normally take four 4-credit courses each quarter; a 4-credit quarter course meets 4 hours a week for 10 weeks, or 40 hours per quarter. As a result, a 3-credit semester course has 5 more contact hours than a 4-credit quarter course. Because the number of total course hours per year is to remain about the same, in the conversion from quarters to semesters, faculty have latitude in deciding how to reorganize course material so that the end result is that the student has the same choice of course topics across the curriculum.

RECENT CHANGES
01.24.11 – Grad Council Schedule updated
Packet Menu:  https://www.rit.edu/conversion/facstaff_program_conversion_packet.php

CONVERSION RELATED MEETINGS
The General Education Committee met 1/28/11.

TEACHING AND LEARNING SERVICES
As the quarter to semester conversion process unfolds, many faculty members are now working on course level changes. Converting your course can be challenging but you can get help at Teaching & Learning Services on the A level of The Wallace Center (A650).

We have walk-in hours:
Thursdays, 1PM – 3PM
Fridays, 9AM - 11AM

Our staff of Instructional Design Consultants offer consultations on course (re)design and other conversion issues without an appointment.

TLS is also the place to confer with faculty colleagues on course conversion or to work on your course in a quiet, technology-enabled environment.

Comments or questions can be directed to the Academic Calendar Conversion Office Q2S2013@rit.edu.