

Council of Rhode Island College
Friday, February 10, 2017
SU 307 – 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Kieran Ayton, Lisa Bain, Juan Barboza-Gubo, Jeff Blais, Vincent Bohlinger, Angelica Cardente-Vessella, Roger Clark, William Holmes, Kalli Kemp, Peter Little, Patrice Mettauer, Elisa Miller, Patricia Molloy, Jayne Nightingale, Carolyn Obel-Omia, Silvia Oliveira, Leo Pinheiro, Ron Pitt, Marianne Raimondo, Frank Sánchez, Alison Shonkwiler, Geoffrey Stilwell, Kerri Tunnicliffe, Ben Young

Excused: Nancy Blasdell, Robyn Linde, Jinsoo Kim, Mark Motte, Tomoji Shogenji, Aaron Smuts

Absent: Deborah Kaspin, Elizabeth Holtzman, Paul Tiskus, Elizabeth Orton, George Ladd, Stefan Battle, Jose Rosario, Thomas Lima

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the December 9, 2016 Council Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Chair's Announcements

- New member - Ann Mosko from the Math & Computer Science Department retired and has been replaced by Leo Pinheiro.
- The March 3rd Council meeting is at 12:30 p.m. not 2 p.m.

4. Second Vote on Student Conduct Board Proposals

Jeff summarized the proposals and read comments received from faculty, including a minor grammar change and a suggestion to address the timing of an appeal. An amendment to address this suggestion was approved unanimously.

By voice vote, the proposals were approved unanimously. Jeff will inform the Student Conduct Board of changes.

5. Discussion of Experiential Learning (with Sue Abbotson)

Sue provided an overview of the work being done by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee to define experiential learning and distributed two handouts. The handouts provided definitions and a chart of experiential learning by each undergraduate program. The current status is showing that 100% of RIC programs provide some type of experiential learning opportunities. *Any changes in the chart should be forwarded to Sue.* The plan is to include the chart on the RIC website and a new paragraph in the catalog. There were several questions addressed and additional discussion on the topic. President Sánchez stated this could be a distinguishing and unique factor for the college. He also asked the Council if this is an area that would be supported by the faculty. There was also a brief discussion of skill sets

required by graduates for the workforce. Patrice commented on the need for internships and importance of experience to employers.

6. Further Discussion of RIC's Three-Year Strategic Action Plan

Not included due to time constraints.

7. Report on the Honorary Degrees Process (with Ed Pacheco - Interim VP of College Advancement and Chair of the Council Honorary Degrees Committee)

Jeff reviewed the previous process and the changes that have occurred this year. Ed continued this discussion, including the work of the Honorary Degrees Committee. He also circulated the recommendations by the committee to the members of Council. Jeff stated that neither the Council members nor the faculty were solicited for suggestions, as had been done in the past. Ed commented that members of the committee was charged with reaching out to the campus community and the recommendations are not necessarily final but there is a timing consideration. He also reviewed the three selections and the rationale used by the committee. There was discussion of the importance of Council committees and the communication with Council as a whole to insure a wide representation. Ed agree and asked the Council to "vote" on the recommendations. There was concern about the time needed to read the biographies. President Sánchez stated that there was no intention to change the process, it was due in part of the transition and improvements are needed in the execution going forward. Ed stated that the committee members commented that they felt this new process allowed more input from them. There were statements by the president about the importance of honorary degrees and re-focusing the commencement ceremonies on the students by reducing the number of speakers. *By voice vote, all three of the recommendations was approved with no opposing votes.*

8. Report of the Faculty Scholarship Task Force

Jeff introduced the report and Vince provided a brief overview of the process used and how previous concerns were addressed. There was discussion of several aspects of the recommendations in the report.

By voice vote, the report was supported by Council unanimously.

9. Open Discussion

Not included due to time constraints.

10. Remarks from President Sánchez

- RI Dept of Education Report update - The president reviewed the results of the report and the status of the actions going forward.
- RI Promise Program - Dr. Sánchez felt this could position the college well but many details still must be finalized.
- New Positions - There are plans to hire several new positions, including a provost and a VP of Student Success with the help of a national search firm. Clark Greene will be organizing the search committees.
- Inauguration Update - Dr. Sánchez highlighted several of the events and stated that all expenses will be paid through fundraising. He also addressed some of the concerns with the communications of the event. Ed provided several copies of the formal invitations.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lisa Bain, Secretary of Council