

Council of Rhode Island College
Friday, March 3, 2017
SU 307 – 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Kieran Ayton, Lisa Bain, Stefan Battle, Jeff Blais, Nancy Blasdel, Vincent Bohlinger, Angelica Cardente-Vessella, Roger Clark, William Holmes, Robyn Linde, Deborah Kaspin, Kalli Kemp, Jinsoo Kim, Peter Little, Thomas Lima, Patrice Mettauer, Patricia Molloy, Jayne Nightingale, Carolyn Obel-Omia, Silvia Oliveira, Elizabeth Orton, Leo Pinheiro, Ron Pitt, Marianne Raimondo, Frank Sánchez, Tomoji Shogenji, Alison Shonkwiler, Aaron Smuts, Geoffrey Stilwell, Paul Tiskus, Kerri Tunnicliffe, Ben Young,

Excused: Elizabeth Holtzman, George Ladd, Mark Motte

Absent: Juan Barboza-Gubo, Elisa Miller, Jose Rosario

Guests: Anna Cano Morales - Associate Vice President for Community, Equity and Diversity
Kristy dosReis - Associate Director, Communications
Scott Kane - Interim Vice President Student Affairs
David Gingerella - Vice President Administration and Finance/CFO

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:37 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the February 10, 2017 Council Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3 Chair's Announcements

- Faculty Center - Coffee will be discontinued after spring break due to lack of use. Faculty Center can be reserved without requiring a minimum food service. RFP to outsource café will include a coffee discount for faculty with pricing to be determined.
- Search Committee for VPAA/Provost - Each dean appointed a member with A&S appointing two to the search committee. Council selected Elisa Miller as their representative.
- Student Conduct Board - President signed revised resolutions.
- May Council Meeting - New officers will be elected for Executive Committee with all elected positions available (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and two others). Please remind departments of expiring terms. Terms are two years and members can serve two consecutive terms.
- Call from Committee on Committees will go out after spring break.

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

Jeff overviewed the plan and introduced the guests available to address any questions during the discussion. He also provided his perspective of the plan compared to previous plans, which was positive due to its succinctness but also expressed concerns about the number of committees/groups called for in the plan and the lack of focus on student readiness.

Open Discussion/Concerns/Comments

- There was a question about the purpose of the discussion at the Council meeting. Kristy dosReis stated that the comments today will be recorded and considered by the Strategic Plan Committee.
- Concern: Increase in administrative functions. President Sánchez said the recent audit found the college lean on the administrative side. He also discussed the recent hiring of Anna Cano Morales (Associate Vice President for Community, Equity and Diversity). He added that the Vice President of Student Success is not an addition but will replace the Vice President of Student Affairs.
- Concern: Purpose of Provost and its reporting structure. President Sánchez said its purpose is to elevate academics affairs and the other vice presidents will not report to Provost.
- Concern: Chief Innovation Officer. President Sánchez addressed concern by reviewing the process he went through learning about the history and funding of the position. He plans to focus on the needs going forward, especially funding of position. There will be a report this month stating that the position will be

paid in full by grants. He also discussed the Open Textbook Initiative and the cost savings from a fall pilot in Biology. President Sánchez stated that he sees this position as bringing positive benefits to the college.

- Concern: "Relevant" scholarship statement in Mission Statement. Ron Pitt said it was a good point and will be addressed.
- Concern: International focus at the college. President Sánchez agreed the statement needs to be stronger and clearer. He also said it should be unique to RIC and not similar to URI or other institutions.
- Question: Westerly site mentioned on page 8. President Sánchez said there is a facility provided by the state that is available for use by RIC. David Gingerella provided additional information. Its original use was for CCRI but is available for RIC and URI as well and has a facility manager.
- Question: How will items in the plan be funded? President Sánchez joked that a big check is coming. The strategic plan will help prioritize activities and investments based on available resources. Some items will be highlighted by the plan. There is indication that the governor values education and will provide additional funding. He also stated that fundraising will be needed as well as additional academic offerings (hybrid and online courses) and new partnerships.
- Question: Access as mentioned on page 4. President Sánchez said it will require enrollment management and addressing the quality of students. Access to excellence but access with appropriate support. He stated that he has reviewed the current admissions standards and found them to be fuzzy, needing some clarifications.
- Question/Correction: Commission on page 4 should be Council.
- Question: Use of Technology on page 16 and whether it will create additional positions. President Sánchez said new positions are possible but will depend on priorities established after the plan is finalized.
- Question: What is branding on page 12? President Sánchez said it will clarify RIC's mission as an institution. Previous feasibility studies provide recommendations, which need to be implemented. This will focus on Quality, Value and Innovation at RIC. He stated that many high level executives in the state are not aware of these.
- Comment: Statement about inclusive excellence and the need to add the word "identity". President Sánchez agreed and the word "ability" is needed as well.
- Comment: The need to focus on retention. President Sánchez agreed. Jeff mentioned his discussion with David Gingerella on the same topic and the need to help improve the overall student environment at RIC. David Gingerella spoke about investments to improve the dorms and other areas on campus. Ron Pitt mentioned how this relates to advising and the need for support. David Gingerella added more information about additional student space in Sapinsley Hall and other areas to encourage students to stay on campus. President Sánchez said he wants to disrupts the "come to campus and leave" mentality of students.

At this point there were no more comments or questions. Jeff asked Kristy about the way to provide any additional input to the strategic plan and she stated the information is available on the RIC website.

5. Open Discussion

There was one question about why RIC is not a smoke-free campus. President Sánchez said he has considered this and has experience doing this at other campuses. There was a brief discussion about the School of Nursing's no-smoking campaign several years ago.

Jeff thanked President Sánchez and all inauguration committee members for the events.

6. Remarks from President Sánchez

- President Sánchez also thanked the inauguration committee members. He said fund raising was very successful and tripled expectations, fully paying for the events.
- RIC has launched a task force for experiential learning, one of his initiatives to highlight the uniqueness of RIC.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lisa Bain, Secretary of Council