

Council of Rhode Island College
Friday, April 7, 2017
SU 307
2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Present: Kieran Ayton, Lisa Bain, Jeff Blais, Vincent Bohlinger, Roger Clark, William Holmes, George Ladd, Robyn Linde, Deborah Kaspin, Kalli Kemp, Jinsoo Kim, Thomas Lima, Elisa Miller, Patricia Molloy, Mark Motte, Jayne Nightingale, Carolyn Obel-Omia, Silvia Oliveira, Leo Pinheiro, Ron Pitt, Marianne Raimondo, Frank Sánchez, Tomoji Shogenji, Aaron Smuts, Geoffrey Stilwell, Paul Tiskus, Kerri Tunnicliffe, Ben Young, Peter Little

Excused: Nancy Blasdel, Alison Shonkwiler

Absent: Stefan Battle, Angelica Cardente-Vessella, Juan Barboza-Gubo, Elizabeth Holtzman, Patrice Mettauer, Jayne Nightingale, Elizabeth Orton, Jose Rosario

Guests: Chris Marco, Scott Kane, Rosalind Sibielski, Katherine Lacasse

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the March 3, 2017 Council Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Chair's Announcements

- Reminder that the first meeting of the **2017/18 Council** is May 5 at 12:30 p.m. and the last meeting of the **2016/17 Council** is May 5 at 12:45 p.m.

4. Proposal from CAPP regarding undergraduates taking graduate courses

Jeff asked for a motion to accept the proposal, a motion was made (seconded). Paul Tiskus introduced the proposal and Chris Marco provided additional details on the changes. The floor was then opened for questions or comments. Jeff mentioned an issue raised by the Executive Committee about the chain of approvals required, which appeared quite extensive. Paul and Chris addressed the issue and it was discussed among the Council. A motion was made (seconded) to amend the proposal to eliminate the dean's signature from the chain of approvals. At this point there was no further discussion and Jeff called for a vote.

Voice vote – Amendment passed unanimously.

Further discussion continued about the restriction to "seniors". Chris addressed the issue with information about concerns about graduate level courses with undergraduate students. At this point there was no further discussion and Jeff called for a vote.

Voice vote - Passed unanimously.

5. Proposal from the Student Life Committee to add a Medical Amnesty Policy to the Student Conduct Code

Jeff asked for a motion to accept proposal, a motion was made (seconded). Rosalind Sibielski (Chair of the Student Life Committee) provided additional details on the proposal. The floor was then opened for questions or comments. There was a question about the section for students seeking help from others. Rosalind stated that the policy was written after reviewing policies of 25 other institutions. However, most of the other policies do not limit the number of violations. Additional questions were asked pertaining to the new policy, which Rosalind Sibielski addressed. Jeff provided information provided by Scott Kane in an email. Further concerns were raised about purpose of policy and the focus on student health and safety versus punitive measures. A motion was made (seconded) to remove number of violations in Section 3. At this point there was no further discussion and Jeff called for a vote.

Voice vote. All in favor except one, two abstained.

Amendment passed.

Katherine Lacasse from the Student Life Committee provided further information about possible sanctions and programs for students receiving amnesty. One member provided a personal story about her son that provided helpful information about the benefits of intervention and programs for students. Jeff asked President Sánchez for his perspective. The president was supportive of the discussion and removing the limits on the violations. There were also questions about sanctions for student organizations and off/on campus activities, which were clarified by Rosalind. At this point there was no further discussion and Jeff called for a vote.

Voice vote. All in favor except one, two abstained.

Proposal passed.

6. Review of Membership Status (Returning, Term Ending but Re-electable, Term Ending) and Executive Committee Candidates.

Jeff reviewed a list showing the status of current Council members and asked re-electable members to discuss status with departments before May 5. New members will need to attend May 5 meeting. The last two groups on the list (Term Ending/Re-electable and Term-Ending) need to notify Jeff or Leo Pinheiro (of the Elections Committee) of any changes.

7. Open Discussion

None

8. Remarks from President Sánchez

- RI Promise Scholarships and the RI Legislature - The president conveyed support of the current proposal but not other less expensive proposals. His thoughts will be included in a Providence Journal Op-Ed article the the weekend of April 8-9.
- Experiential Learning - The approved UCC proposal on experiential learning is seeking volunteers for a task force to further define this topic.
- Emeriti Faculty - Recommendations are currently being solicited from faculty.
- Renovations - Gaige will open soon then the renovations on Craig-Lee will begin. The bookstore renovation is almost complete. There are possibilities for a Starbucks and a sub shop (Subway or Jersey Mikes) as part of the renovation. There will be \$3 million in renovations/investment to resident halls during the summer 2017.
- Student Activity Fees - The president has received questions about why graduate students do not pay an activity fee. This is unlike other institutions and should be discussed. A standard fee may be added.

Questions for the President

There was a request for an update on the search committee for the VPAA/Provost. President Sánchez stated that a search firm has been selected and his next newsletter will provide more information and a timeline. Elisa Miller (Council representative on the search committee) provided information about the work starting next week by the committee.

There was a question about the plans for the Interim VP of Advancement. President Sánchez said it is currently on hold due to other searches and will begin this fall. Duties for the position may change with fund raising needing a new focus. He also stated that the set number of FTE at RIC dictated by the state is a concern and may need to be changed.

There was a question about the status of the advising report recommendations. President Sánchez said his budget proposal has resources set aside for advising as well as for technology. Some of this will depend on approval of budget and any approval of the RI Promise Scholarships.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lisa Bain, Secretary of Council