

Council of Rhode Island College
Friday, October 14, 2016
SU 307 – 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Kieran Ayton, Lisa Bain, Jeff Blais, Nancy Blasdel, Vince Bohlinger, Roger Clark, William Holmes, Elizabeth Holtzman, Deborah Kaspin, Kalli Kemp, Jinsoo Kim, Robyn Linde, Peter Little, Patrice Mettauer, Elisa Miller, Patricia Molloy, Jayne Nightingale, Silvia Oliveira, Elizabeth Orton, Ron Pitt, Marianne Raimondo, Jose Rosario, Frank Sánchez, Tomoji Shogenji, Alison Shonkwiler, Geoffrey Stilwell, Kerri Tunnicliffe, Paul Tiskus, and Ben Young

Excused: Juan Barboza-Gubo, Stefan Battle, Mark Motte, and Aaron Smuts

Absent: George Ladd, Thomas Lima, Ann Moskol, Carolyn Obel-Omia

Guests: Lisa Church, Valerie Endress, Jill Harrison, Quenby Hughes, Chris Marco, Audrey Olmsted, Jane Przybyla, and Leslie Schuster

1. Group Photo

The group photo was taken outside on the steps of the Student Union.

2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:07pm.

3. Chair's Announcements

- The November meeting is Nov 18 at 12:30pm instead of 2pm.
- There is a new member of Council. Bob Castiglione has resigned and Tomoji Shogenji has taken his place.
- There is a new six-member task force in place that will examine the application process for Faculty Research Grants, Faculty Development Grants and Faculty Release Time. The goals are to improve the process and increase the funding.
- The Student Conduct Board Resolutions that the Council passed have been sent to the President for his consideration. They are still in progress and may require additional negotiations.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the September 9, 2016 Council Meeting

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

5. Update on plans for Adams Library – Carissa DiLizio

Carissa discussed the current activities at the library including de-selection, resource evaluations, OASIS and Learning for Life re-locations, and the plans for improved student seating. She encouraged input and interaction from faculty. There were several questions about the timing for the relocations and several positive comments from Council members.

6. Discussion of possible Faculty Center name change and usage
Jeff Blais provided a summary of a conversation he had with Scott Kane about changing the name of the Faculty Center. This was following by a discussion of the history of the Faculty Center and its use, including the current fee structure. Many members of the Council provided input to this discussion. Scott Kane was in attendance and confirmed that the name will stay the same for now and any future considerations will be brought to Council before changes are made.
7. Discussion of implementation of new class scheduling blocks
Jeff Blais announced that the May 2016 CAPP Resolution was signed by President Sánchez in July. Ron Pitt has formed a working group and the Department Chairs are looking at the Fall 2017 schedules. Ron stated that it will take some time but was optimistic that any issues will be resolved.
8. Discussion of the rights, responsibilities, and process to be followed by faculty members and the administration in dealing with disruptive, intimidating students
Jeff Blais provided background on the issue, focusing on the rights and responsibilities of faculty dealing with disruptive or intimidating students. President Sánchez expressed concerns for the safety of faculty and stressed the need for clearer protocols at the college. He also mentioned that RIC will be working with consultants to revise this and other protocols. Jill Harrison, Chair of the Student Conduct Board, provided information about the structure of the board, the current guidelines and the number of cases it reviews each year. Scott Kane briefly discussed the Student Code of Conduct. This was followed by a lengthy discussion by Council members with input and questions from many guests. The topics included faculty input to new protocols, classroom management, threat assessments, rights of students in disruptive classrooms, faculty rights and responsibilities, faculty awareness of protocols, available training for faculty, communication of student issues to key parties on campus, and FERPA/HIPAA considerations. At the conclusion of the discussion, Jeff Blais stated that the Executive Committee will address the issue and return to Council for further input.
9. Open Discussion
There were no items brought up at the meeting. There was one question about advising and if it still a topic of discussion for Council. Quenby Hughes stated that President Sánchez and Vice President Ron Pitt will be at the next union meeting to discuss.
10. Remarks from President Sánchez
President Sánchez recapped the issue of disruptive students, stating that the administration is taking the topic very seriously and agreed that there is a problem if faculty do not know what to do. His plan is to (1) get help now (2) re-charge the ACT* by the end of the semester and (3) set clearer protocols that are vetted by the RIC community.

* The ACT is the Assessment and Concerns Team. This is a team of RIC employees that include representatives from several areas of the college and coordinated by Scott Kane. Currently, those representatives are Thomas Lavin (Director Counseling Center), Holly Shadoian (AVPAA), Teresa Brown (Director of Residence Life and Housing), Lynn Wachtel (Director College Health Services), Keri Rossi-D'entremont (Director of Disabilities Services), and Stephen Casbarro (Assistant Director of Campus Security).

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.

Minutes taken by Lisa Z. Bain, Secretary of Council