

Council of Rhode Island College  
Friday, November 18, 2016  
SU 307 – 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Minutes

*Present:* Kieran Ayton, Lisa Bain, Stefan Battle, Jeff Blais, Nancy Blasdel, Roger Clark, William Holmes, Deborah Kaspin, Kalli Kemp, Jinsoo Kim, Thomas Lima, Robyn Linde, Patrice Mettauer, Elisa Miller, Patricia Molloy, Mark Motte, Jayne Nightingale, Silvia Oliveira, Carolyn Obel-Omia, Ron Pitt, Jose Rosario, Frank Sánchez, Tomoji Shogenji, Alison Shonkwiler, Geoffrey Stilwell, Paul Tiskus, and Ben Young

*Excused:* Vince Bohlinger, Angelica Cardente-Vessella, Elizabeth Orton, Marianne Raimondo, Aaron Smuts, Kerri Tunnicliffe,

*Absent:* Juan Barboza-Gubo, Elizabeth Holtzman, George Ladd, Peter Little, Ann Moskol

*Guests:*

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:36 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the October 14, 2016 Council Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Chair's Announcements

- The next meeting is Dec 9 at 2 p.m.
- The Executive Committee meets Dec 2 and any requests for consideration should be sent to Jeff prior to the meeting.
- As an update to the Disruptive Students Discussion from last meeting, CAPP is working on a new policy and a draft should be ready by the Dec 9 Council meeting.
- As an update to the Student Conduct Board Proposals, Jeff has revised proposals for consideration at Dec 9 Council meeting.

4. Capital Projects Update – VPAF David Gingerella

David provided a brief history and update of Gage Hall. The building is all new on the inside. RIC colors are being used for branding in the classrooms and auditorium but not the offices. A new type of tile is being installed instead of carpet to reduce maintenance costs. There is a problem with several trees and options are being considered, input welcomed. Due to the previous issues with swing space, a full-time coordinator will be starting in January for the move back into Gage Hall. The plan is to move most faculty before commencement. The moves will be disruptive but communication is key. The current plan is for Summer I courses to be held in Craig-Lee and Summer II courses to be held in Gage Hall. The elevators in the library should be done by April.

5. Proposal to amend Article X of the Council By-Laws concerning the Campus Store Advisory Committee.

Jeff informed the Council that the proposed changes require two votes, one today then a second vote at the next meeting after the campus has time to provide input. Debra Servello, chair of the committee, provided a summary and rationale for the proposed changes. There were questions and discussion about the burden of serving on committees by Schools with less faculty (e.g. Social Work) than other Schools. Several suggestions were made for changes in the wording of the proposal. The phrase "preferably one from each of the five schools" was added to the faculty membership description. At this point there was no further discussion and Jeff called for a vote.

Voice vote - passed unanimously, no abstentions.

Proposal passed – Proposal now goes to campus for input.

6. Discussion of the Ad-Hoc Advising Committee Report which was outlined at the September 9 Council meeting.  
Jeff provided a history of the report and the concerns that were raised at the AFT meeting about professional advisors. There was a discussion of implementing professional advisees only in certain departments, aka a hybrid model. Michelle Brophy-Baerman was in attendance and agreed this was possible even though all students would benefit from professional advisors. There was additional discussion voicing a variety of concerns about professional advisors. Jose Rosario provided input from the students' perspective and the benefits of professional advisors in terms of answering questions that faculty do not know, like financial aid. President Sánchez provided input from student listening tours that advising is the top concern of students and that student surveys support the issue of quality with advising over the last 10 years. No additional actions were taken at the meeting.
7. Open Discussion  
One issue was raised about tuition freezes by Governor Raimondo in 2015 and the recent approval of an increase in tuition. This was addressed by President Sánchez in his remarks.  
  
Kieran asked that ATAC/technology support be added as an agenda item for a future meeting. He praised the efforts of technical support at RIC and mentioned concerns about staffing levels.
8. Remarks from President Sánchez
  - Without the tuition increase, the college would not be able to meet contractual obligations or be able to invest in strategic initiatives going forward.
  - Thanked faculty for attending the open house, which was very successful.
  - Thanked CAPP for addressing the policy for disruptive students as well possible threats.
  - Thanked UCC for their work especially in experiential learning (97% of programs on campus provide).
  - Emeriti faculty attended a performance on campus. The plan is to have one to two events per semester for emeriti.
  - Happy Thanksgiving.
9. Adjournment  
The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lisa Z. Bain, Secretary of Council