

Council of Rhode Island College  
Friday, December 9, 2016  
SU 307 – 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Minutes

*Present:* Kieran Ayton, Stefan Battle, Jeff Blais, Nancy Blasdell, Vincent Bohlinger, Roger Clark, William Holmes, Elizabeth Holtzman, Deborah Kaspin, Kalli Kemp, Jinsoo Kim, Thomas Lima, Robyn Linde, Peter Little, Patrice Mettauer, Elisa Miller, Patricia Molloy, Mark Motte, Silvia Oliveira, Elizabeth Orton, Ron Pitt, Marianne Raimondo, Frank Sánchez, Tomoji Shogenji, Alison Shonkwiler, Geoffrey Stilwell, Paul Tiskus, Kerri Tunnicliffe, Ben Young

*Excused:* Lisa Bain, Juan Barboza-Gubo, Jayne Nightingale, Aaron Smuts

*Absent:* Angelica Cardente-Vessella, George Ladd, Ann Moskol, Carolyn Obel-Omia, Jose Rosario

*Guests:* Dragan Gill, Breea Govenar, Jeanne Haser, Pierre Morenon, Natasha Seaman, Lisa Smolski

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2016 Council Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Chair's Announcements

- Lisa Bain is away, so Vince Bohlinger is taking the minutes (so all are braced for disappointment).

4. Second vote on a proposal to amend Article X of the Council By-Laws concerning the Campus Store Advisory Committee

Jeff Blais read a comment submitted during the open comment period in favor of the proposal. By voice vote, the proposal passed unanimously with no abstentions. The proposal now goes to the President for his consideration. If approved, these By-Laws amendments will be enacted.

5. Consideration of a proposal to amend Article XXI of the Council By-Laws concerning the Student Conduct Board

Jeff Blais discussed the past history of the previous amendments recently approved in two successive votes by Council but then not approved by the President. Blais pointed to the two key changes between the previous amendments and those here:

- 1) Proposal #5: a summary report will now be submitted to the Student Conduct Board at the beginning of each semester concerning instances of violation of the Code of Student Conduct with sanctions rendered.
- 2) Proposal #1: the chair of the Student Conduct Board will be appointed by the Committee on Committees, with approval of the President.

A motion was made to approve. A discussion of the proposals ensued, with questions and/or objections raised about the timeframe covered within each semester's report, the rationale for adding 'approval of the President' to the appointment of SCB Chair, and whether the chair of this committee should be a faculty member.

By voice vote, the proposal passed with one objection. As this was the first vote, the proposal will be sent to the campus community for comment and will return to Council in February for a second vote.

6. Consideration of a proposed policy from the Committee on Academic Policies and Procedures for addressing Academic Disruptive Conduct

Paul Tiskus, chair of CAPP, discussed the process and reasoning by which his committee developed this policy being proposed as an addition to the Rhode Island College Handbook of Policies, Practices, and Regulations.

The main questions and friendly amendments raised were as follows:

- Are course policies required to be stated on the syllabus (can it be ad hoc)?
- There already is a cellphone policy on campus: cellphone use is not permitted in the classroom without the instructor's permission.
- A suggestion was made and accepted to change "within 24 hours" to "one working day" (page 3).
- There were multiple concerns expressed about specific items on the list of examples of Disruptive Student Conduct (page 2), including "questions," "demands for . . . attention," "entering class late or leaving early," and "sleeping." A question was raised as to whether there was a distinction between 'disrespectful' and 'disruptive'? Tiskus asserted that the list of behaviors was not intended to be cut and dry. These were merely guidelines for faculty members, and Incident Reports would not necessarily be filed on the first offense – and some wouldn't even be considered as offenses in the first place. Points were raised that different faculty members and different contexts would determine whether some of the behaviors on this list were disruptive or not.
- A suggestion was made and accepted to change the "Academic Misconduct" to "Academic Disruptive Conduct" on the Incident Report (page 6).
- Clarification was given that the Incident Report being submitted to the Department Chair was also going to the VPAA as well so that there would be a general repository.
- A question was raised as to whether this form would go to the Dean of Students as well.
- A question was raised as to whether this policy on Academic Disruptive Conduct corresponded to our policy for Academic Dishonesty/plagiarism. Faculty members are required to report plagiarism, despite whatever penalty they give. With Academic Disruptive Conduct, faculty would not be required to submit an Incident Report.
- Clarification was given that students would be able to write something on the Incident Report above the student signature.
- A point was raised that it is important that faculty create a paper trail so that we can start having data on these kinds of issues with respect to the increasingly diverse student populations we serve.

By voice vote, the policy was approved unanimously. It will be sent to the President for consideration and, if approved, will be included in the Student Handbook and the College Handbook.

7. Discussion of a Preliminary Proposal from the Task Force for Faculty Scholarship Resources

Jeff Blais announced that there would not be a vote. The introduction of this proposal was intended to begin the process of soliciting feedback from the greater campus community.

General comments/suggestions were made to the Task Force as follows:

- Can there be some kind of stipulation that calls for representation on the new committee being formed so that each of RIC's schools can be represented?

- How do other funding resources factor in, how do faculty learn of these other opportunities, and how do faculty know whether it is proper or improper to apply for funding speculatively (e.g., before a proposal/paper to a conference has been accepted)?
- The President emphasized that “we’re not close to funding as much as there needs to be.”
- For first-tier funding, is \$1,000 too small? Conference expenses often total at least \$1,100-1,200.
- Could the new deadlines for proposals be better aligned with deadlines for the proposals to IRB (Institutional Review Board)?
- Budgeting for student salaries is fantastic, but should student involvement be funded through a different budget so that it is not decreasing the amount specifically designated for faculty research? [There was then a discussion of Work Study, with questions raised about federal eligibility. Breea Govenar, Director of CRCA (Center for Research and Creative Activity), said that CRCA is working to make the Work Study process more transparent. For more information about FAFSA, etc, refer to the Financial Aid Office.]

The Task Force members in attendance – Vince Bohlinger, Breea Govenar, Pierre Morenon, Natasha Seaman, and Lisa Smolski – urged that Council members share this Preliminary Proposal with their respective constituents and give feedback to the Task Force as soon as possible, as the plan was for a formal/official Proposal to be put forward in January for implementation in Fall 2017.

#### 8. Open Discussion

No comments were made. Jeff Blais thanked all those who worked on the various proposals submitted for today’s meeting.

#### 9. Remarks from President Sánchez

- Thanks to all those who worked on the various policies presented at Council today.
- A draft of the Strategic Plan is coming out early next week. This is a draft, and the listening tour is continuing. The plan has been informed by the listening tours, as well as the work that was already done by the previous Strategic Plan group. There is a framework being put into place to distinguish initiatives that are strategic. There will be pillars of action items with focus on learning innovation, experiential learning, and student success. Everyone is invited to make comments and offer feedback. A revised draft is planned for March. The goal is to have a plan instituted by July 2017.
- UCC (Undergraduate Curriculum Committee) estimates that over 95% of our students engage in experiential learning (undergraduate research, internships, etc) in their education here at RIC. What’s the interest in making this 100% – a 21<sup>st</sup> skills requirement? We strongly believe in this hands-on component to build off of critical thinking, etc. We would like to see experiential learning imbedded in the Strategic Plan. [Discussion ensued with questions and comments about experiential learning, including:
  - Any intention to include something like service learning in the Gen Ed program?
  - We should be aware of the tradeoffs of outsourcing some of our educating to outside partners.
  - Internships and discussions with employers can help drive curriculum changes to better prepare students.
  - We ought to think very carefully of our community partners and of our responsibilities to our community.
- All are invited to the holiday get together today at 4:00 in Alex and Ani Hall.

#### 10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Minutes taken by Vince Bohlinger, Vice Chair of Council