

**Council of Rhode Island College, 2018-2019
Council Meeting
Friday, February 8, 2019
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Faculty Center Main Dining Room, Donovan**

MINUTES

Present: M. Baker, N. Blasdell, T. Brennan (for A. Barlow), V. Bohlinger, E. Christiansen, R. Clark, C. Connolly, J. Diem, M. Duncan, J. Eagle, D. Freeman, B. Holmes, J. Kim, D. Kaplan, D. Kaspin, A. Kazemi, K. Kemp, J. Kim, R. Kim, R. Kraus, M. Kregler, M. Lawrence, P. Mettauer, M. Mock, M. Motte, A. Montali, S. Oliveira, J. Percy, S. Pearlmutter, L. Pinheiro, M. Raimondo, F. Sánchez, A. Shonkwiler, A. Smuts, K. Tunncliffe, S. Weiss, B. Young

Excused: E. Basile, L. Downes, J. Rosario

Absent: None

1. Call to Order	2:05pm
2. Minutes of the December 14, 2018 Council Meeting	R. Clark motioned to accept the minutes. Seconded by M. Mott. Minutes approved as written with 1 abstention.
3. Chair's Updates	<p>Vincent Bohlinger (Chair of Council):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There were eight volunteers for the temporary At-Large seat; therefore, there will be an election. Other At-Large seats will open at the end of the academic year. 2. New ad-hoc committees are being formed: one on class-size policy applicable to the entire campus based on best practice pedagogy, one on creating the equivalent of a faculty handbook, and one to revise/update the faculty search guidelines. Anyone interested in serving on one of these committees is asked to be in touch with V. Bohlinger. 3. The campus photographer (Gene St. Pierre) would visit and take photos of Council in action during this meeting.
4. Honorary Degree Nominations	Ed Pacheco (Chair of the Honorary Degrees Committee) discussed the nominees for the Honorary Degree and Presidential Medal, selected from a total of 8 nominations. After discussion, there was a motion to ratify by R. Clark and seconded by M. Raimondo. Approved with 1 abstention.

<p>5. President's Discussion Items</p>	<p>Frank Sánchez (President):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recently there have been incidents of hate-based harassment toward students on campus. Safety precautions include patrolling and surveillance of certain campus areas along with the x8888 number for Campus Police to report issues. There is also a 'Hope Line' (456-HOPE [4673]) that is available 24/7 for students feeling distress. 2. Dean searches are currently underway with candidate visits to campus in the Schools of Nursing and Education & Human Development. 3. While we are continuing in our 2017-2020 Strategic Plan, we should continue to think about the future of the college. One issue could be showcasing certain clusters of academic strength (e.g., Health Sciences, drawn from different programs and departments across campus). 4. The proposed RI Promise will involve outreach through TV, radio, and the legislature. The public needs to be educated on this issue. To qualify, students must pay for their first two years at RIC, complete 60 credits within those two years, remain a full-time student, and maintain at least a 2.5 GPA. As 70% of RIC's graduates stay in RI, this seems like an obvious investment in the state.
<p>6. RI Promise and Proposed Policy Changes</p>	<p>Sue Pearlmutter (Provost) explained that the RI Promise legislation would be created via the budget office instead of through a more typical legislative process with a designated forum for public comment.</p> <p>This legislation proposes some significant changes that extend beyond financial incentives for students. A handout was distributed that noted multiple items within the legislation that would prove extremely challenging to implement. There was extended discussion of these issues, with many voicing concern and even alarm. There were discussions as to strategies for educating our legislature and adjusting the legislation so that it would not be harmful to our institution and higher education in the state overall.</p>
<p>7. Open Discussion</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>8. Adjournment</p>	<p>M. Mott motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Ben Young. The meeting adjourned at 3:39pm.</p>
	<p>Minutes taken by Nancy Blasdel, Secretary of Council</p>