

**Council of Rhode Island College 2019-2020
Council Meeting
Friday, February 14, 2020
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Faculty Center Main Dining Room, Donovan**

AGENDA

Present: J. Arango, A. Barlow, E. Basile, D. Bissonnette, V. Bohlinger, E. Christiansen, R. Clark, C. Connolly, A. Del Vecchio, J. Diem, L. Downes, E. England- Kennedy, R. Franzblau, B. Holmes, D. Kaspin, J. Kim, R. Kim, M. Lawrence, M. Lynch, A. Montali, M. Motte, J. Murphy, A. Patrie, S. Pearlmutter, J. Percy, L. Pinheiro, M. Raimondo, D. Ramirez (for E. Basile), K. Saatcioglu, F. Sánchez, A. Smuts (for A. Berg), S. Turki, S. Weiss, J. Zornado

Absent: J. Eagle, R. Kraus

Excused: C. Creamer, Y. Hui-Michael, P. Little, M. Mock

Guests: L. Bain, M. Brophy-Baermann, A. Cano-Morales, K. Dumpson, D. Hang, S. Hamouda, P. Lynch-Gadaleta, S. Mello-Stark, P. Mettauier, M. Padmanabhan, N. Sarawagi, J. Tweed

1. Call to Order	V. Bohlinger called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.
2. Minutes of the January 31, 2020 Council Meeting	Motion to approve made by R. Clark, seconded by M. Motte. No additions or corrections. Approved with one abstention and no objections.
3. President's Discussion Items	<p>Frank Sánchez (President):</p> <p>Addressing missed meetings last fall, President Sánchez mentioned an alumni event in Chicago that was successful in reintroducing key alumni to the college.</p> <p>Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Last night he testified in House Finance hearing regarding bond issue for Clark Science. Question 1 on the ballot will be for \$117 million bond total, with \$38 million for RIC. - Discussions continue regarding Strategic Plan, and more feedback is encouraged. - 60 faculty MVPs were honored at a Feb 12th basketball game. - Under the new RIPTA program that allows RIC students free passes, 85,000 trips have been taken since last summer, with 600 paratransit trips for RIC students since August. - Campus Climate Survey: The President suggested that Council might want to address the negative feelings and bullying mentioned in the survey.

	<p>- Communication issues: The President called for discussion with faculty about how administration could do better at communication.</p>
<p>4. Proposal for the new Department of Computer Science and Information Systems (CSIS)</p>	<p>Sue Pearlmitter (Interim Provost/VPAA): See proposal 19-20_003</p> <p>The Provost noted that there had been no new department formed out of two existing departments in recent memory, and there is no policy that guides this process. The proposal must go before OPC and NECHE, as this is considered a substantial change, and Council approval would indicate that the proposal has gone through a deliberative process.</p> <p>Q: Why put the new department in Arts and Sciences? A: Most faculty members are coming from Math/CS, so they're already in Arts and Sciences. CS and CIS faculty further explain how this organization aligns with common practice in the field. Council representatives from Math/CS and Accounting/CIS express faculty support from Math and Accounting for the reorganization.</p> <p>Q: Will CS and CIS stay separate, or will the curricula overlap more in the future? A: CS/CIS faculty members explained that they will stay separate, but they will look for ways to collaborate more. A new cybersecurity program will draw on both, for example. Web development is another area that will draw from both disciplines.</p> <p>Motion to vote to approve: M. Motte, seconded by J. Zornado. Unanimous with one abstention.</p>
<p>5. Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient</p>	<p>This agenda item was withdrawn by agreement of the President and Council Chair.</p>
<p>6. Advising and Enrollment</p>	<p>Ducha Hang (AVP of Student Success) & Jim Tweed (Dean of Enrollment Management):</p> <p>President Sánchez introduces this by noting that when he arrived there was not much at RIC that is supplemental to faculty advising. Every budget since has proposed new funding for advising that would add to the existing faculty advising.</p> <p>AVP Hang: We are in the starting phase of implementation, but conversations continue. Some faculty members need support with advising demands and enrollment support requires more advising. OASIS is dependent on graduate assistants, so undergrads often meet with several different advisors. Nursing and Business facing particular challenges with advising. We are working on figuring out the relationship between professional advisors and the faculty advisors, and how to maintain faculty-student engagement throughout the first two</p>

	<p>years of college.</p> <p>We are currently investing in building out the advising structure. There will be three new professional advising positions in the new advising office. This office will work with faculty to create shared vision and mission for advising.</p> <p>Dean Tweed: Begins with declining head count over the past decade. Fall to Spring decline this year is -7.9% (undergrads and graduate students). New student incoming class this fall was 11% larger than 2018-2019. 792 out of 919 FT/FR from fall returned this spring semester. That's 86%, and 90% would be the target. Projection is for 698 of this cohort to return in the fall, which would equal a 74% retention rate for the third semester. Data about graduation and retention rates also shared, and that data shows improvements.</p> <p>President Sánchez offers examples of imbalance in current students relative to places in majors in high demand, such as Nursing and Medical Imaging. He suggests something like a Health Sciences Liaison Center to help students figure out options.</p> <p>Q: Is there an effort underway to figure out who the students are who are leaving RIC, and why they are leaving? JT: Yes, that effort is underway. It includes entrance and exit interviews. AVP Cano-Morales mentioned that the Campus Climate Survey also contained a section devoted to students considering leaving RIC.</p> <p>Q: How does RIC compare to URI, other institutions? FS: URI much higher retention rates, but RIC is ahead of peer institutions.</p> <p>Q: Is the first semester becoming too difficult (e.g., RIC 100, FYS), and also how the college will fix the enrollment/budget problems. FS responds with some examples of how enrollment and retention efforts have been personalized and directed in the past year or two.</p> <p>Q: Is increased tutoring part of proposed solutions? Students are demanding more tutoring, especially intended Nursing majors. DH says that she is looking at ways to enhance tutoring.</p> <p>Q: Have we hired advisors before we have decided what the advising structure will be? And what will be the relationship b/w OASIS and the new Advising Office. DH says that her feeling is that the new hires will join the existing team, including OASIS and faculty advising. FS notes that RIC could simply copy an existing structure from other institutions, but instead we are tailoring it to RIC.</p>
7. HOPE	Tamika Wordlow-Williams (AVP of Student Success and Dean of Students) and Peggy Lynch-Gadaleta (Director of Institutional Equity):

	<p>HOPE (Helping Others Pursue Excellence) has largely replaced the Behavioral Engagement Team (BET). HOPE helps students to get the help that they need, and the new term doesn't scare off students the way BET did. Also, most BET referrals were for students who needed support. There is now a HOPE line: 456-HOPE, which connects students to whatever resources they need.</p> <p>There are three layers to HOPE: The standard HOPE team, which meets weekly; the extended team, which includes faculty members from a few departments; and the Behavioral Engagement Team, which is a smaller committee that meets to discuss more severe cases.</p> <p>Q: What happens to the case files? A: The files are confidential unless there are conduct issues that need to be reported.</p> <p>Q: Can students use the form? A: It's not advertised to students, but they could find it and use it.</p> <p>Q: Does this process prevent other ways of helping students, for example walking them over to the counseling center? A: No, this just makes it easier to refer students to available resources.</p>
8. Open Discussion	None.
9. Adjournment	M. Motte moved to adjourn, seconded by R. Kim. Adjourned at 3:44pm.
	Minutes taken by Erik Christiansen, Executive Committee