Council of Rhode Island College 2019-2020
Council Meeting
Friday, 4/3/2020 (continued to Saturday 4/4/2020)
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Virtual online meeting
Minutes

Present (at meeting and/or via online voting): J. Arango, A. Barlow, E. Basile, A. Berg, D. Bissonnette, V. Bohlinger, K. Brabeck, E. Christiansen, R. Clark, C. Connolly, C. Creamer, A. Del Vecchio, J. Diem, L. Downes, E. England-Kennedy, R. Franzblau, B. Holmes, Y. Hui-Michael, J. Kim, R. Kim, R. Kraus, M. Lawrence, P. Little, M. Mock, M. Motte, A. Montali, J. Murphy, S. Pearlmutter, L. Pinheiro, M. Raimondo, F. Sánchez, K. Saatcioglu, S. Turki, S. Weiss, J. Zornado
Guests: H. Shadoian, T. Mettauer

1. Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 2:06 pm
2. Welcome	Welcome from Council Chair V. Bohlinger and introduction of meeting agenda on the alternative grading policy proposal. Due to concerns related to process for inputting grades on the part of MIS, the initial proposal was changed earlier in the week to a second proposal; however, the issues related to MIS have been resolved and we returned to the first proposal as the focus of this meeting.
3. Proposal for Alternative Grading	H. Shadoian (Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs) summarized the process leading to this proposal. T. Mettauer and H. Shadoian reviewed how other higher ed institutions were dealing with grading in the midst of the pandemic and the mid-semester transition to remote instruction. Many similar institutions are implementing a type of pass/fail system for this semester only. The logistics of how the process will be implemented are still in process. The aim is to reduce the anxiety and stressors related to this crisis. It provides amnesty. This grading process is for the current Spring 2020 semester only. Although summer classes will be online, grading will return to the normal process.
4. Discussion	Robust discussion ensued regarding the process and grade assignment. Major points reflected below: • Concerns about the process and increased work for faculty. • Concern expressed regarding large classes and the amount of email that faculty will receive to change grades. • Council requested a clearer description of how the process would work for grading. • Questions regarding why Records cannot handle the changes to be made. Holly discussed that Records cannot see grades in Blackboard. • Concerns about P/NP designation: why use a different value

	when the college uses Credit/No Credit? Can that or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory rather than introducing new values? • How will this process affect Veteran benefits, academic probation, and transfer grades? RIC will accept transfer grades from other institutions. URI is using S/U and CCRI is pending. • Concerns regarding programs that require actual grades for secondary applications. • Discussion on which policy Council was going to vote on. Council preferred the first draft of the policy. • Council requested that the proposal be updated and resent for review prior to a vote.
5. Vote on policy	Due to a number of Council members needing to exit the meeting, a quorum did not exist at this time. That evening, V. Bohlinger sent the proposal to all Council members and requested review. Voting took place on-line that evening through the next day via a Google doc.
6. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm.
7. Final Vote	The next day, the policy passed with 28 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.
	Minutes taken by Claire Creamer, Secretary of Council