

## Council of Rhode Island College 2019-2020

### Council Meeting

Friday, April 24, 2020

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/996428613>

### Minutes

*Present:* A. Barlow, A. Berg, D. Bissonnette, V. Bohlinger, K. Brabeck, E. Christiansen, R. Clark, C. Connolly, C. Creamer, A. Del Vecchio, J. Diem, E. England-Kennedy, R. Franzblau, B. Holmes, Y. Hui-Michael, D. Kaspin, J. Kim, R. Kim, R. Kraus, M. Lawrence, P. Little, M. Mock, A. Montali, M. Motte, J. Murphy, S. Pearlmutter, L. Pinheiro, M. Raimondo, K. Saatcioglu, F. Sánchez, S. Turki, S. Weiss, J. Zornado

*Guests:* M. Arthur, J. Bartelson, Q. Hughes, G. Ladd, C. Marco, B. Martin, D. Ramirez, N. Sarawagi, T. Schmeling, H. Shadoian, T. Wordlow-Williams, B. Young, Y. Zhou

1. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by V. Bohlinger at 2:02 pm
2. Minutes of the April 3, 2020 Council Meeting	Motion to approve by M. Raimondo, seconded by A. Berg. No corrections identified. Minutes unanimously approved by members with no nays or abstentions.
3. Announcements	Chair of Council V. Bohlinger provided information on the upcoming May 8 <sup>th</sup> meeting. This meeting is the last of the academic year, but also serves as the first meeting for the next academic year. At the upcoming meeting the Executive Committee will be elected. Members of the current committee who are willing to continue include V. Bohlinger (Chair), M. Raimondo (Vice Chair), C. Creamer (Secretary), and E. England-Kennedy. E. Christiansen is running for RIC/AFT President and may not be able to be in a Council position pending the outcome of the election. V. Bohlinger asked that if anyone else would like to be considered for any of the positions to notify him as soon as possible.
4. President's Discussion Items	<p>President F. Sánchez began his remarks with thanking the faculty for all of their work during this difficult and challenging time. He applauded the new grading policy for this semester as being helpful to students. The President did note that innovative plans are being put together for fall if classes are delivered remotely. There are concerns about enrollment for fall. Outreach via virtual methods is taking place. Communication is ongoing, a work in progress. The President had hoped to have a weekly update beginning this week, but it has been delayed to next week.</p> <p>The President acknowledged that there are significant levels of stress and anxiety for both students and faculty.</p> <p>Financial side we are engaging with state and federal we received in 7.4 million dollars from the CARES Act, with half going directly to students.</p>

	<p>We are expecting a 6.2-million-dollar deficit. Severe deficits are expected due to the pandemic, a significant decline in funding from the state, and a decline in enrollment. We have to plan for the worst. The Strategic Budget and Resources Planning Committee is looking at broad budgetary data and will give guidance to president regarding structural issues. Membership: Steve Nedder (Chair), Mikaila Arthur, Gerri August, Jon Bartelson, Vincent Bohlinger, Donna Huntley-Newby, Gokul Mandayam, John Margarida, Mark Motte, Tamika Wordlow-Williams, Rob Eaton, Clark Green, Chris Hourigan, Maggie Sullivan, Kim Dumpson.</p> <p>Strategic Planning Committee: Meeting set up for next week to talk about pivoting from the Strategic Plan to planning and preparing for remote delivery for fall.</p> <p>Also launched is the RIC Online Planning Committee to identify challenges and gaps and get ready for the fall. Membership: George Ladd (Co-chair), Jon Bartelson (Co-chair), Mikaila Arthur, Vincent Bohlinger, Dragan Gill, Clark Greene, Ducha Hang, Julie Horwitz, Quenby Hughes, Chris Marco, Suzanne Mello-Stark, Trece Mettauer, Keri Rossi-D'entremont, David Toms, Jiani Wu.</p> <p>Comment: It may be that students will want to come to RIC virtually. President: We are a tremendous option.</p> <p>Question: Other institutions are actively and visibly recruiting. Will we be advertising soon? President: We are advertising strategically, which may appear less visible.</p> <p>Question: Possible plan to decrease tuition to get more students? President: Not at this time.</p> <p>Question: Do we have a plan for when we will have a decision about the fall? President: We have to have a plan for the Governor and the RIDOH in anticipation of how this virus will progress.</p> <p>Questions: Should we reach out to students who are facing challenges? What are the biggest issues we can help students with? Should faculty reach out? Provost: Student Success coordinated outreach to students who were missing in action (~200 students). Three main points: discomfort with online experience, lack of equipment and/or connectivity and/or time, and the loss of their relationships with their instructors. Faculty members need to be really engaged.</p>
5. Provost's Discussion Items	Interim Provost/VPAA S. Pearlmutter: Accreditation visit moved from October 2020 to March 2021.

	<p>There have been meetings with department chairs the past few weeks to discuss challenges and provide information in greater detail for fall.</p> <p>In response to a question about any updates on tenure and promotion decisions, materials are going to President with hopefully some announcements next week.</p>
<p>6. Proposal for Distance and Hybrid Courses.</p>	<p>RIC Online Working Group (Mikaila Arthur, Vince Bohlinger, Quenby Hughes, George Ladd, Holly Shadoian) presented the attached proposal. V. Bohlinger provided an overview of the attached proposal. Motion to approve made by R. Clark; seconded by C. Connelly. Robust Discussion ensued. The major points from faculty discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better guidelines around classroom preparation and amount of work that equals credit hours. Some courses ask for more than the credit hours. The amount of time that would be expected for online course delivery should also be considered.</li> <li>• RIC has a subscription to Quality Matters and support in FCTL to assist in designing online courses. C. Marco suggested that in the definition section, adding a definition of an on-line course vs. emergency remote instruction may clarify the issue. Especially since remote and on-line are not the same thing and the definition may clarify for faculty. In addition, C. Marco emphasized that it takes 6-9 months to develop an on-line course.</li> <li>• There were concerns regarding when the policy would go into effect and how this policy would affect fall courses. Discussion also touched upon the barriers to implement the policy in the fall if remote learning was mandated once again. Suggestions were made to include a statement that exempts the policy during emergency situations.</li> <li>• Discussion regarding the presentation of courses synchronously or asynchronously. Synchronous classes allow for student engagement but asynchronous would allow students who need to work or other to engage in the material on their own time. Flexibility is important.</li> <li>• How will the student be able to identify synchronous vs hybrid? Robust discussion on synchronous vs. asynchronous ensued. Consideration must be made to on how the college identifies the various course offering so students know about the difference. Definitions should be clearly defined in the policy.</li> <li>• Course caps were also discussed. Best practice suggests that on-line courses should generally have smaller class sizes. However, due to budgetary constraints, class caps may be affected as smaller caps will require greater numbers of faculty to teach.</li> </ul> <p>V. Bohlinger asked whether Council was ready to vote on the policy. It was suggested to return the policy to the committee for additional language as many members agreed that extenuating circumstances could</p>

	<p>occur for fall and perhaps extend beyond fall. Hold on voting. Committee would meet and bring a revision back to the May meeting.</p>
7. Update on Calls to Students by Student Success	<p>AVP Student Success/Dean of Students Tamika Wordlow-Williams provided information regarding issues faced by students during this crisis. Dr. Wordlow-Williams reported that her team at Student Success made calls to students who were referred to her office or were absent from class (~196 students).</p> <p>Currently there are 46 students who are residing in the residence halls. These are students who did not have an alternative place to live during this time.</p> <p>The team also reached out to students who were not registered for fall.</p> <p>To help address the many needs of students, Ed Pacheco and the RIC Foundation was able to secure some funds through fundraising to provide relief for students. Learning for Life has received about 52 applications for assistance and were able to provide about \$15,000 in support (35 applications are still pending).</p> <p>The Counseling Center is having drop-in sessions on Wed. 2-3 pm and are also having teletherapy sessions. The center is tracking, without identifiable information, what types of issues are affecting students. Common issues include high anxiety due to the unpredictability associated with the crisis, academic stress, time management and motivation, lack of privacy at home, and home life impacting schoolwork. Some students expressed feelings of anxiety and depression about going online. These findings related to students who lived both on and off campus. The Team is seeking strategies to support students.</p>
8. Discussion of Remote Teaching Needs, Obstacles, Concerns.	<p>A discussion of remote teaching led by George Ladd (Chair of the Committee on Online Learning [CoOL] and Co-Chair of the RIC Online Planning Committee) Jon Bartelson (Assistant Vice President for Information Services/Chief Information Office &amp; Co-Chair of RIC Online Planning Committee), and Chris Marco (Director of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning [FCTL]) is postponed. A survey will be distributed via email to gather this information.</p>
9. Open Discussion	None
10. Adjournment	Adjourned at 4:01 Motion to adjourn by A. Berg and second by R. Kim.
	Minutes taken by Claire Creamer, Secretary of College Council