

**Council of Rhode Island College 2020-2021**

**Council Meeting**

**Friday, May 8, 2020**

**2:00 – 2:10 p.m.**

**Virtual meeting via: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/483171437>**

**AGENDA**

*Present:* J. Arango, A. Barlow, E. Basile, D. Bissonnette, V. Bohlinger, A. Bousseau, K. Brabeck, E. Christiansen, C. Connolly, C. Creamer, A. Del Vecchio, J. Diem, L. Downes, V. Endress, E. England-Kennedy, R. Franzblau, B. Holmes, Y. Hui-Michael, D. Kaspin, R. Kraus, M. Lawrence, P. Little, M. Medwid, S. Mello-Stark, M. Mock, A. Montali, J. Murphy, A. Patrie, S. Pearlmutter, L. Pinheiro, M. Raimondo, C. Ramos, K. Saatcioglu, F. Sánchez, T. Schmeling, A. Smuts, J. Spas, S. Turki, S. Weiss, J. Zornado

*Excused:* none

*Absent:* none

*Guests:* see next page

1. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by V. Bohlinger at 2 pm.
2. Election of the 2020-2021 Executive Committee of College Council	<p>V. Bohlinger reviewed that this meeting is considered to be the first meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the Executive Committee members. V. Bohlinger turned the meeting to Leo Pinheiro, Chair of the Elections Committee.</p> <p>L. Pinheiro reviewed the candidates listed below. A three-minute time frame was provided for any other individuals to come forward as potential candidates.</p> <p>Declared candidates for election so far are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Chair: Vince Bohlinger</li><li>- Vice Chair: Marianne Raimondo</li><li>- Secretary: Claire Creamer</li><li>- Exec Comm (2 needed): Elizabeth England-Kennedy &amp; Tom Schmeling</li></ul> <p>At the completion of the time frame no further candidates presented.</p> <p>The vote was called, and the candidates were elected by a unanimous vote. No abstentions.</p>
3. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm.

**Council of Rhode Island College, 2019-2020**

**Council Meeting**

**Friday, May 8, 2020**

**2:10 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/483171437>**

**AGENDA**

*Present:* J. Arango, A. Barlow, E. Basile, A. Berg, D. Bissonnette, V. Bohlinger, A. Bousseau, 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, D. Kaspin, J. Kim, R. Kim, R. Kraus, M. Lawrence, P. Little, M. Medwid, S. Mello-Stark, M. Mock, A. Montali, M. Motte, J. Murphy, A. Patrie, S. Pearlmutter, J. Percy, L. Pinheiro, M. Raimondo, C. Ramos, K. Saatcioglu, F. Sánchez, S. Turki, S. Weiss, J. Zornado

*Excused:* none

*Absent:* none

*Guests:* S. Abbotson, K. Almeida, M. Arthur, G. Auger, M. Baker, J. Bartelson, S. Basu, T. Borgerding, M. Brophy-Baermann, B. Caouette, S. Conklin, M. Darcy, T. Ender, C. Falangola, D. Hewins, Q. Hughes, P. Jacques, M. Kim, R. Kirkwood Auld, A. Kiser, G. Ladd, R. Linde, C. Marco, M. Ostas, J. Pearson, L. Pfeiffer, M. Reddy, N. Sarawagi, L. Schuster, N. Seaman, H. Shadoian, A. Shonkwiler, N. Smith, J. Stillman, M. Sumeracki, J. Wu

1. Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 2:08 pm by V. Bohlinger, Chair of Council.
2. Minutes of the April 24, 2020 Council Meeting	- A motion to approve minutes of the April 24, 2020 meeting made by R. Clark. Seconded by J. Arango. Minutes approved unanimously without correction.
3. Updates from the Chair	V. Bohlinger ask members to bring back to their respective departments a call for volunteers to serve on the various Council Committees.
4. President's Discussion Items	<p>President Frank Sánchez began with a note of thanks to all the individuals who are working on planning for the fall and who continue to support the work of Strategic Planning.</p> <p>The President provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed plans for the upcoming fall semester. A proposed plan was submitted to the Rhode Island Department of Health. This plan and process is fluid and subject to change. Implementation will be contingent on decisions from the Governor's office as well as the RIDOH. Faculty are supported in considering teaching remotely and resources in FCTL are available to support remote/online teaching. A survey regarding student experiences regarding remote learning was completed and results will be distributed at a later date.</p>

	<p>The President provided an overview of the current financial shortages that the college faces for the upcoming fiscal year. The President noted the Covid situation, lower-than-expected enrollments, and the State’s contributions being reduced as key factors impacting the financial picture. Deans and other administrators are working on strategies to address reduced finances.</p> <p>The President acknowledged the faculty’s expressed concerns regarding the delay in tenure and promotion decisions. The President provided an apology and explanation for the delay in meeting the time frame for faculty to hear about tenure and promotion. He acknowledged the anxiety and stress faculty experienced. Tenure and promotion letters have gone out. A few individuals reported they had not received a letter. Those faculty members who had been expecting a response were instructed to contact the Provost/VPAA.</p>
6. Provost’s Discussion Items	<p>Interim Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs Sue Pearlmutter offered her apology for the delay in meeting the contractual timeline in making tenure and promotion announcements. She repeated that faculty who are waiting to know if they have achieved this milestone should contact her.</p>
7. Revised Proposal for Policy on Distance and Hybrid Courses	<p>RIC Online Working Group: Mikaila Arthur, Vince Bohlinger, Quenby Hughes, George Ladd, Holly Shadoian.</p> <p>V. Bohlinger reviewed the proposal and pointed to changes made in response to suggestions from the April meeting. See attached document (19-20_007).</p> <p>Motion to approve made by P. Little; seconded by K. Saatcioglu.</p> <p>President Sánchez requested further clarification of “standards” that were used as the foundation for this proposal. Is the proposal similar to institutions such as RI College? Robust discussion on best practices and what standards are used for on-line learning. Quality Matters, which RI College subscribes to, is described in the literature as the standard used by online learning. Additional discussion revolved around class size and definitions of terms such as synchronous, hybrid, asynchronous.</p> <p>The proposal was passed unanimously and will go to the President for approval.</p>

<p>8. Proposal from on W Policy</p>	<p>Holly Shadoian (Member of the Committee on Academic Policies and Procedures [CAPP] &amp; Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs) reviewed the proposal for members of the RIC Council. See attached document (19-20_008).</p> <p>Motion to approve by R. Clark; seconded by J. Percy.</p> <p>Robust discussion on the policy with specific concerns around the background reasons that students withdraw from classes. B. Holmes shared a letter from the Biology Department expressing concerns regarding this policy. Some faculty members see a withdrawal as a positive in regard to student success. Additional concerns were related to grading decisions being made by Records or the Office of Student Success. Faculty discussion asked for a change in the proposal to stronger language about a grade change and the need for “authorization” from faculty prior to any change being made. Council members suggested that a change in language to include greater faculty input prior to Office of Student Success making a change of grade to a W.</p> <p>The policy passed with 29 in favor, 5 against, and 1 abstention.</p>
<p>9. Proposal on Class Size</p>	<p>V. Bohlinger provided background and overview of the proposal on class size. Please see the attached document (19-20_009).</p> <p>Motion to approve made by E. Christiansen; seconded by J. Zornado.</p> <p>Discussion was minimal. This proposal is brought forward as a recommendation to assist Chairs and Deans in making decisions on class size because contract language does not identify maximum class sizes.</p> <p>The policy passed unanimously but for 2 abstentions.</p> <p>V. Bohlinger thanked members of this committee for their work on this proposal.</p>
<p>10. Revised Search Committee Guide for Faculty Hiring</p>	<p>Maureen Reddy (Chair of the Joint Council-RIC/AFT Faculty Search Guideline Task Force) provided an overview of this proposal. See attached document (19-20_010).</p> <p>Motion to approve made by A. Berg; seconded by R. Franzblau.</p> <p>This proposal has been reviewed and okayed by the Union</p>

	<p>Leadership and Provost/VPAA's office.</p> <p>Some discussion ensued around the process, especially in the area of recommendations being changed after being proposed by the Search Committee. RIC/AFT President Q. Hughes posted contract language from section 7.1, which addresses the process and should alleviate concerns about recommendations not being moved through the levels.</p> <p>The policy passed unanimously with 1 abstention.</p> <p>V. Bohlinger acknowledged M. Reddy as Chair and all members of the Committee who worked on the proposal.</p>
11. Open Discussion	No discussion.
12. Adjournment	<p>V. Bohlinger thanked everyone for their commitment and endurance in an extremely challenging year.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm.</p>

Respectfully submitted,  
 Claire Creamer, Secretary of Council