

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

**Council Meeting**

**Friday, September 11, 2020**

**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Virtual meeting via:**

<https://ri-college.zoom.us/j/4335179823?pwd=Y3hNdXQwSG9Uc1pCT1o4ekxNVytCZz09>

**MINUTES**

*Present:* J. Arango, A. Barlow, E. Basile, D. Bissonnette, V. Bohlinger, A. Bousseau, K. Brabeck, D. Brell, P. Brown, C. Connolly, C. Creamer, A. Del Vecchio, J. Diem, L. Downes, V. Endress, R. Franzblau, B. Holmes, D. Kaspin, M. Lawrence, P. Little, M. Lynch, M. Medwid, S. Mello-Stark, M. Mock, A. Montali, J. Murphy, A. Patrie, M. Raimondo, C. Ramos, K. Saatcioglu, President F. Sánchez, T. Schmeling, J. Spas, A. Smuts, Provost H. Tate, K. Tunnicliffe (for C. Cummings), S. Turki, T. Vutech, S. Weiss, J. Zornado

*Excused:* N/A

*Absent:* N/A

*Guests:* M. Adair, D. Adler, K. Almeida, S. Bery, S. Blessing, T. Borgerding, M. Brophy-Baermann, K. Bucci, A. Cano-Morales, E. Christiansen, L. Church, T. Chaudhuri, T. Coffman, S. Conklin, S. DeAthos, J. Dingus-Eason, K. Dumpson, M. Duncan, E. Edelman, C. Gent, D. Gill, C. Greene, P. Gullipalli, B. Hawk, S. Hess, D. Hewins, E. Holtzman, Q. Hughes, D. Huntley-Newby, P. Jacques, P. Janaway, A. Kiser, B. Klassen, K. Lacasse, P. Lynch-Gadaleta, E. Magyar, J. Magyar, C. Marco, M. Marcotte, H. McGee, P. Mettauer, C. Milbourne, E. Miller, H. Nagib, S. Nedder, E. Orton, E. Pacheco, S. Pearlmutter, J. Pearson, V. Percoco, E. Pfeiffer, L. Pinheiro, J. Richardson, B. Ripstein, J. Schwab, N. Seaman, A. Shonkwiler, R. Sibielski, K. Smith, R. Sparks, J. Stillman, M. Sumeracki, L. Thompson, J. Urda, E. Walsh, M. Wilks, J. Wu, S. Zoll

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| 1. Call to Order                              | Meeting called to order by Chair of Council Vince Bohlinger at 2:04 pm. Prior to the next item on the agenda, Vince provided an overview on the role of Council for new members.  |
| 2. Minutes of the May 8, 2020 Council Meeting | Motion to approve minutes of the May meeting made by Deborah Kaspin and seconded by Meg Mock.<br>No corrections or additions made.<br>7 abstentions, no objections, otherwise approved unanimously.   |
| 3. Welcome & Introduction to College Council  | Vince welcomed the new members of the committee. A change to the agenda: #6 (Course Evaluation Committee) has been moved to the next meeting.<br><br>At the May meeting of Council, elections were held for seats on the Executive Committee. Due to a current vacancy on the Executive Committee, an election must be held today. Approval of the membership of the Committee on Committees must also be done (which typically happens at the September meeting of Council). |

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| 4. Council Elections  | <p>Leo Pinheiro (Chair of the Elections Committee) guided the election:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Executive Committee has 1 seat and 1 candidate: Andrea Del Vecchio</li> <li>- Committee on Committees has 4 seats open and 4 individuals who agreed to serve: Christine Connolly, Arthur Patrie, Carse Ramos, and Kemal Saatcioglu</li> <li>- For each election, a request was made for additional nominations or self-nominations. Hearing none, Council elected the above nominees.</li> </ul>   |
| 5. Provost Introduction                                     | <p>Helen Tate (Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs) was introduced and provided an introduction and some background of her academic work and vision. Helen spoke of the current challenges and how she would like to help move us forward.</p>  |
| 6. Course Evaluation Committee Update                       | <p>Postponed to next meeting.</p>   |
| 7. Strategic Budget and Resources Planning Committee Update | <p>Steve Nedder, Sue Pearlmutter, and Helen Tate (Co-chairs of the SBRPC) gave an update of the committee's work and reviewed the group's formation and objectives as well as future opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group was formed pre-pandemic to review the budget, focus on the structural deficit, and offer suggestions. It was intended to run parallel to the Strategic Planning process.</li> <li>• Data is shared with the committee with a focus on planning for the future and advising the President.</li> <li>• RI Speaker Mattiello has announced that no budget or bonds will be approved prior to the election. The college has taken a budget hit this year. Currently the College is working on a reduced budget with further cuts—at least 15%—anticipated for the FY2022 budget.</li> <li>• It is likely that our complete budget situation may not be known until after Thanksgiving or December. The for Clark Science will not be on the November ballot. A special election for the bond may occur well after November.</li> <li>• Committee membership: Steve Nedder (co-chair), Sue Pearlmutter (co-chair), Helen Tate (co-chair), Mikaila Arthur, Gerri August, Jon Bartelson, Vincent Bohlinger, Rob Eaton, Clark Greene, Chris Hourigan, Donna Huntley-Newby, Gokul Mandayam, John Margarida, Mark Motte, Maggie Sullivan, Mary West, Tamika Wordlow-Williams, John Simmons (external consultant) [n.b.: S. Pearlmutter is no longer on the committee as of 17 September 2020]</li> </ul> |

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| <p>8. President's Discussion Items</p>           | <p>Frank Sánchez (President) provided a PowerPoint presentation of the fiscal picture of the College.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of reaccreditation: process currently ongoing. More decisions will be coming, and they may be difficult ones. The goal is correct the structural deficits.</li> <li>• Discussion ensued on processes and improving shared governance.</li> <li>• Another discussion point was related to the upcoming layoffs of Council 94 employees. It was a difficult decision to cut administrative assistants, but it was done in order to maintain faculty and deliver our mission. Personnel is the largest part of our budget and has the greatest financial impact.</li> <li>• Discussion on closure of HBS and why College Council was not involved. The question was raised as to why any issues related to HBS were never brought to Council. There were additional questions on the process that was used to come to the decision to close HBS. There appears to be a violation of the Charter of College Council.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>9. Discussion of the Henry Barnard School</p> | <p>Frank Sánchez (President) continued with the discussion of HBS and transitioned to a PowerPoint on HBS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The President reviewed the process and decision making that took place. HBS has been subsidized by RIC for some time and, according to RIDE and the School of Education leadership, it does not meet the outcomes for teacher education. Decisions had to be made over the summer in relationship to the finances needed to keep the school open. RIC cannot sustain HBS as it impacts RIC's financial issues.</li> <li>• Julie Richardson (HBS) read a formal statement on behalf of the faculty of HBS. She emphasized the value of HBS and the faculty who teach there.</li> <li>• President reinforced the need for better processes and asked for faculty input. The quality of the HBS faculty was acknowledged by the President.</li> <li>• A question was posed if legislative leaders were consulted. The President acknowledged that he had multiple conversations with various legislators.</li> <li>• Discussion revolved around the issue that faculty need to be involved in decisions that affect the college. The faculty need to be included in the processes. Another theme was that the Charter of Council was not being followed. Sue Pearlmuter suggested perhaps the Charter needs to be reviewed and revamped.</li> <li>• The President voiced support of the Charter and no need to change. Vince reinforced the definition of shared governance and encouraged processes to build a path to true shared governance.</li> </ul> |

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|                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helen Tate discussed the need to look at our academic “house.” This can be achieved through program review and this process should be ongoing. The college needs to put together a process on how to do this. Programs must be reviewed to see if they are sustainable and viable.</li> <li>• Many commentaries were presented on the closing of HBS, a 120-year-old program/institution.</li> <li>• Stephen Nedder will come again to the next meeting to continue with presenting budget issues.</li> </ul> |
| 10. Open Discussion | None   |
| 11. Adjournment     | Meeting adjourned at 4:49 pm.<br>Pete Brown made the motion, which was seconded by Marianne Raimondo and approved.   |
|                     | Respectfully submitted by Claire Creamer, Secretary of Council   |