

Council of Rhode Island College, 2018-2019
Council Meeting
Friday, October 26, 2018
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Student Union 307

Minutes

Present: M. Baker, A. Barlow, E. Basile, N. Blasdell, V. Bohlinger, E. Christiansen, C. Connolly, R. Clark, J. Diem, M. Duncan, J. Eagle, B. Holmes, D. Kaspin, A. Kazemi, K. Kemp, J. Kim, R. Kim, M. E. Kregler, M. Lawrence, P. Mettaufer, M. Mock, A. Montali, M. Motte, S. Oliveira, S. Pearlmutter, J. Percy, L. Pinheiro, M. Raimondo, J. Rosario, A. Shockwiler, A. Smuts, P. Tiskus, K. Tunnicliffe, S. Weiss, B. Young
Excused: L. Downes, D. Freeman, F. Sánchez
Absent: None

1. Call to Order	2:03pm
2. Minutes of the September 21, 2018 Council Meetings	- Motion by Roger Clark; seconded by Mary Baker. Approved as written.
3. Chair's Updates	Vincent Bohlinger announced a couple of changes to our meetings: - President's Discussion Items and similar agenda items will be moved toward the beginning of the meeting, with informational presentations now coming toward the end. - Agenda items will better adhere to designated time limits with the implementation of time cards and a timekeeper. E. Christiansen volunteered as timekeeper for this meeting.
4. President's Discussion Items	Sue Pearlmutter (Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs) discussed Question 2 (Horace Mann renovations) on the upcoming ballot: - The RIC Foundation contributed \$40,000 for the 'Vote Yes on 2' campaign (with the RIC/AFT contributing \$5,000 and \$140,000 from URI). There is a YouTube video featuring RIC students singing in support of "Vote Yes on 2."
5. Budget Concerns	Sue Pearlmutter (Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs) and Steve Nedder (Vice President for Administration and Finance) spoke on the following:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is the first time in recent college history that administration is discussing the budget with the greater campus community. - Currently, there is a \$4.5 million deficit (about 3% of total revenue) due to money removed by the legislature at the end of last year (about \$1.5 million) as well as lower enrollment. We have faced a 9% loss in students over the past two years. - Plan was made to reduce the expenditure in every aspect of the college. A decision was made to remove \$500,000 from Academic Affairs: \$100,000 from the Adams Library and the remaining \$400,000 from the other schools. The goal is to have more efficiency in the classes by reducing or combining sections with low enrollment. 19 administrative positions at the college will remain vacant and new computer rollouts will be delayed as cost-saving measures. - S. Nedder stated that he will not know what the final budget is until July 1, 2019. S. Pearlmuter stated that in general an undergraduate course needs to have at least 12 students in order to break even. The intent is not to change how we do upper level courses (in terms of affecting graduation rates). Another objective is to cut back on overtime and travel expenses. - Clarke Green will be serving as a legislative liaison for RIC. One current focus at RIC is in raising money, student retention, and student success. - S. Nedder explained the budget process, wherein Post-Secondary Council budget meetings are held in the second week of November. In the past, each college (RIC, CCRI, and URI) had 15 minutes to present a proposed budget. The format has changed and now each college will have individual meetings to discuss their budget instead. Tim DelGiudice (Chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education) is supportive of RIC and we have the support of Brenda Dann-Messier (the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education). - S. Pearlmuter will meet with department chairs and will hold open sessions with faculty on budget issues.
<p>6. Dunkin' Donuts Update</p>	<p>Steve Nedder (Vice President for Administration and Finance) discussed details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1½ years ago the college put out a call for a coffee shop to set up in Craig-Lee near a student lounge. There were only 2 responses, Dunkin' and Starbucks, and Starbucks's proposal was not workable.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The coffee shop cannot be in the Student Union because there is a limit on the number of for-profit companies that can occupy a taxpayer-funded building (and Barnes and Noble is in the Student Union). - Dunkin' will include 50% RIC student staffing. Employees will be Dunkin' employees and will be non-union workers. - Benefits to RIC include a monthly lease payment plus a percentage of sales, with money going to Dining Services. There will be restrictions on advertising. The student lounge area in Craig-Lee adjoining Dunkin' will not be part of Dunkin' and will stay under RIC control.
7. Starfish	<p>Ducha Hang (Associate Vice President for Student Success), Michelle Brophy-Baermann (Coordinator of Academic Advising), and Patrice Mettauer (Director of OASIS) discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The aim of Starfish ('Start to Finish') is to end the 'RIC runaround' and create a one-stop information and communication site on advising for students. This software should make it easier for students to locate and contact their designated faculty advisor and financial aid officer. - Other features include "red flags," appointment scheduling, a degree planner, and assistance with progression in degree success. - Faculty volunteers are requested for a working group providing input on designing the system to fit RIC. Starfish will work with Office 365 and is intended to replace some of what we do in PeopleSoft. - The budget for Starfish came from a grant of \$695,000 shared by RIC and CCRI. - The projected rollout is Fall 2019. - See attached PowerPoint.
8. Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives	<p>Anna Cano-Morales (Associate Vice President of Community, Equity, and Diversity) discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flyers targeting particular groups were recently found on campus, some inside a women's bathroom. College administration believes these were distributed by an outside source and were timed to coincide with recent campus events (e.g., Judy Shepard and an ICE-related information session). - A working draft for an ICE Safety Plan was distributed. As it is still a

	<p>draft, we are asked not to share it with members outside the campus community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently there is a Campus Climate Survey underway, with the survey being distributed next spring. There are over 30 members of campus community on the Steering Committee, including 7 faculty members, plus students and staff. On 15 October there were a series of Focus Groups on campus. Another three Focus Group sessions are planned for specific student populations since those were not well attended on the 15th. - On 8 November there will be a celebration in honor of Antoinette Gomes's long career at RIC 4:30-6:00pm.
9. Discussion about Council	<p>Vince Bohlinger (Chair of College Council) raised the following discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can Council be more effective in participating in the decision-making process? - How exactly does shared governance apply to Council? - Questions were raised as to where proposals can originate. V. Bohlinger suggested respective Council committees but welcomed proposals directly to Council.
10. Open Discussion	<p>Joshua Percy (President of Student Community Government) requested that Council notify him of any students who would like to become involved in Student Community Government and/or College Council committees.</p>
11. Adjournment	<p>Motion to end meeting made by Christine Connolly; seconded by Ben Young. Meeting ended at 3:35pm.</p>
	<p>Minutes taken by Nancy Blasdel, Secretary of Council</p>