

ANNUAL REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Committee: Student Life Committee

Prepared by Marie A. Wilks (SoN)

Date: June 6, 2016

Annual reports should contain the following information:

1. Members of the Committee:

Obel-Omia, Carolyn (Term ends: 2017) F-FSEHD
Sibielski, Rosalind (Term ends: 2017) F-FAS
Carpenter, Rachel (Term ends: 2016) F-Library
Wilks, Marie (Chair) (Term ends: 2016) F-SoN

Appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs:

Giacalone, Michael 2017 S-Student Affairs
Monteiro, LaTonya 2017 S-Student Affairs

Appointed by Student Community Government:

Berardis, Eric 2016 Grad. Student
2016 Student Resident (Unable to fill this position)
2016 Student (At least one undergraduate student must reside in the residence halls). We were unable to fill this position.

Kane, Scott A-Interim VPSA, *ex officio*, non-voting:

2. Meeting Dates: 11/19/15, 12/7/15, 1/4/2016 (cancelled), 2/29/16, 3/28/16, & 4/25/2016

3. Review of Committee Activities with Discussion of Major Issues

Campus Crisis Prevention and Protocol and Campus Safety

Crisis intervention. Much discussion for a safe campus for all was discussed. The current RIC Campus police website offered insight to training links and training videos which were mostly out-of-date. Contact was made with Fred Ghio, Director of RIC Campus Police was made with communication documented from Don Tencher (Interim Director), appendix E.

Training. Clarification of Crises prevention and protocols/policies were discussed with Human Resources. Currently no crisis prevention is taught for new hires.

Lighting across campus. Campus safety was also addressed in concern for poor lighting in areas throughout campus—there is currently no re-assessment planned for lighting.

Non-smoking campus/all products

Much discussion this year regarding vapor and non-cigarette smoking of our students. Residential life has edited their handbook to add all smoking materials are not permitted in dorms which included electronic cigarettes. Some discussion took place regarding the issue of non-smoking on campus. Recommendation from the committee is to survey all students on campus and gain insight to their opinion on this sensitive issue.

Gender non-specific facilities

Discussion regarding concerns that many buildings still do not house gender non-specific facilities. The committee identified the map of facilities available across campus. As buildings are being renovated, CL, Gaige & Fogarty, gender non-specific facilities are being added/adapted. Also identified is a gender non-specific facilities map on the college website.

4. Decisions Approved and Actions Taken

Concern of non-smoking on campus—The committee made the decision that this policy should not move forward until students are surveyed for their opinion.

5. Specific Recommendations to New Committee

That Chief Ghio be invited to first meeting of the 2016/17 year in the fall to report on a number of security concerns including crisis intervention & lighting.

That the new Director of Facilities and Operations under the direction of the VP for Administration and Finance, review and evaluate the automated Track it system for physical plant work orders as well as the general process for assigning and completing work orders.

Followup on venue curfew (currently 1am). Student activities would like to change time of curfew to 2am when there are invited entertainment.

6. Self-evaluation

The committee was successful in continuing to focus and be informed on issues important to students. Correspondence was noted from Don Tencher in support of the work of this committee in student safety, including lighting and campus crises prevention. Continued regular communication mechanism with Security has been continued.

The committee met 5 times and meetings were generally attended by more than half of the committee members.

Grad student participation has been very worthwhile. It was difficult this year to obtain student participation at the undergraduate/dorm student population.

Out student was very active in student life at RIC overall, and contributed important perspectives on topics of the committee.

Please submit your annual report to the Council Chair, Jeff Blais – jblais@ric.edu

Appendix A

Student Life Committee November 9, 2015 Minutes

Present: E. Berardis, R. Carpenter, M. Giacalone, S.Kane, C. Obel-Mia , L. Monteiro, M.Wilks

The committee members for 2015-16 are:

Wilks, Marie (Chair) 2016 F-SoN
Obel-Omia, Carolyn 2017 F-FSEHD
Sibielski, Rosalind 2017 F-FAS
Carpenter, Rachel 2016 F-Library
Giacalone, Michael 2017 S-Student Affairs
Monteiro, LaTonya 2017 S-Student Affairs
Kane, Scott Interim VP/Student Affairs
Berardis, Eric GS
Salhany, Joseph UG

The Committee met in the Student Union Room 422. Members introduced themselves. Chair, Marie Wilks, began a discussion of committee issues & general topics to for the year. These include:

- Student membership on the committee. [We have a grad student and need undergrads]
- Continuation of Smoke Free Campus discussion, including e-cigarettes
- Safety on campus, including procedures for active shooter situations. Possible discussion with Chief Ghio of Campus Security
- Parking concerns
- Building renovations and construction and the impact on student life.
- Campus shuttle bus
- Location and use of defibrillators in campus buildings

The committee will meet on Monday Dec 7, 2015 at 11:00 am in Room 422 of the Student Center.

Respectfully submitted

Rachel H. Carpenter
Assoc. Prof/Library

Appendix B

**Student Life Committee
February 29, 2016
Minutes**

Present: M. Giacalone, S.Kane, L. Monteiro, M.Wilks
Excused: E. Berardis, R. Carpenter, C. Obel-Mia, R. Sibielski, J. Salhany

- I. Welcome
- II. Recorder-Marie Wilks
- III. Review of Minutes (November 9, 2015)-accepted
- IV. Ongoing Business

Campus free non smoking include vapor/	Brief addendum has been added to the Residential
Electronic Cigarettes-update	Housing handbook addresses the no Smoking policy inclusive of Vapor/electronic cigarettes
	S. Kane addressed correspondence from legal counsel.
	To consider Council on Committees advice on the next steps by Student Life Committee
Campus Safety re: Crisis response Committee Guest: Fred Ghio, Director of Campus Security/Safety	Cancelled Will invite to meeting on 3/28/2016
Lighting on Campus	Will ask Mr. Ghio to address lighting issues on campus. Previously addressed in email from Committee.

- V. New Business

Concert/venue curfew	L. Monteiro addressed the concern of events on campus which are limited to the 1am curfew. She will address proposal of time change to 2am with Student Council.
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- I. Adjournment

- VII. Next meeting The next meeting March 28, 2016 at 11:00 am, SU 422.

Appendix C

Committee on Student Life Minutes March 28, 2016

- Meeting called to order 11:00
- Minutes from February 29 approved
- Old Business: Smoking Policy discussed

The question was raised: Can a department take a stand in their own handbook in regards to vaping? Incidents have come up in Nursing in which students used e-cigarettes in class, and in the hospital.

Scott Kane: Human Resources agrees that vape cigarettes would have the same restrictions as tobacco cigarettes. The state law refers to regular cigarettes, but the law can be interpreted in how it applies to vaping.

Putting the rules for a department in writing is important to make it clear to students.

- Old Business: Lighting on campus and campus safety discussed

Marie Wilks reported that Fred Ghio responded to her to say that new lighting will be proposed for new building areas, Gage, Fogarty, and eventually Craig-Lee.

Fred Ghio has been asked to attend an upcoming meeting to address campus safety issues. There is no training or reference to web safety videos planned for student orientation. Some of the information on the web page is outdated. A company is coming to campus to assess crisis intervention and to make recommendations. After that, the Student Life committee may be able to aid in dissemination plans for the recommendations.

The conversation regarding moving the curfew from 1:00 to 2:00 am was deferred until the April meeting.

- New business: Concerns regarding student housing were raised. Residential students recently expressed concerns regarding such issues as lack of heat and faulty plumbing. They are frustrated and feel that their voices are not heard. Can we do anything to support them?

A discussion of gender neutral bathrooms was brought up. Maybe there could be a list published of where they are on campus. Scott will find out about plans for gender neutral bathrooms in renovated buildings.

As for the conditions, many residential halls are in bad shape. One plan is to create partnerships between departments and residential halls. Anything we could do towards alleviating student resident concerns would be helpful. This would be a good plan to work on for next year.

- Marie will be stepping down from committee. We need a new chair for the committee. Carolyn will bring this up at Committee on Committees meeting.
- April meeting is scheduled for April 25.
- Meeting adjourned approximately 12:10.

Appendix D

**Student Life Committee
April 25, 2016
Minutes**

Present: E. Berardis, R. Carpenter, M. Giacalone, S.Kane, C. Obel-Mia, M.Wilks
(chair)

The committee members for 2015-16 are:

Wilks, Marie (Chair) 2016 F-SoN
Obel-Omia, Carolyn 2017 F-FSEHD
Sibielski, Rosalind 2017 F-FAS
Carpenter, Rachel 2016 F-Library
Giacalone, Michael 2017 S-Student
Affairs

Monteiro, LaTonya 2017 S-Student
Affairs
Kane, Scott, Interim VP/Student Affairs
Berardis, Eric GS
Salhany, Joseph UG

The Committee met in the Student Union Room 422.

Minutes of the March 28, 2016 meeting were accepted with correction to 2nd paragraph sentence:

“The state laws refers to ~~regular cigarettes~~ **smoking**, but the law can be interpreted in how it applies to vaping.

Chair, Marie Wilks, reported that she spoke with Chief Ghio about attending this meeting but he is busy with CPR training for officers this week. He reported to her that there are currently no plans to evaluate campus lighting, however with new construction and building renovations taking place, lighting will be added/improved.

A private company has been invited to campus to review and make recommendations re: crisis intervention efforts.

Teresa L. Brown, Director of Residential Life, was invited to speak to the committee re: concerns/conditions which students in the dormitories have complained about. Brown reported that student complaints go to RAs and other Res. Life staff who forward them through the Track it program to Physical Plant/Facilities. Known problems and issues:

- It is likely that some students send work orders themselves and use Res. Life’s Adirondack program which has a “work order” button but it is not connected to Track it.
- Both new and old buildings have problems
- It is a campus wide problem.
- There are hundreds of work orders in the system. Facilities does their best to prioritize and act on them. Facilities is understaffed and currently without a Director. The College until recently has been without a VP to oversee this area.
- Some problems are more complex requiring more than one person or trade skill i.e. plumbing, carpentry. Once aspect of a job can be completed and the work order closed without the other work going forward.
- Emergencies do get worked on asap.
- Dorms have 2 dedicated maintenance people who tend to the everyday and to other matters they can manage.
- Brown recommends an evaluation of the Track it system, regular oversight, better training.

This should go forward as recommendation from the committee particularly with new VP on board and Director’s position posted.

Smoke free campus grant is available. American Cancer Society Tobacco-Free Generation Campus Initiative grants to accelerate and expand the adoption and implementation of 100% smoke- and tobacco-free policies on college and university campuses across the nation. May 30 grant deadline. Pres. Carruiolo has been informed and has said no to efforts to apply.

Gender Neutral bathrooms. Eric asked if any more was known re: increasing installing gender neutral bathrooms (GNB) in campus buildings. Marie reported that one has been put in the new addition to Fogarty. Scott Kane reported that there is a mandate that all new construction include GNBs. Scott told of [campus map on website](#) which identifies buildings which have them though not necessarily where in the building they are located. (See campus map banner link to GNBs).

Next year- Marie Wilks & Rachel Carpenter - membership on the committee is up with 2016. Caroline Obel-Omia reported that the Committee on Committees is working to appoint more faculty and assign a chairperson. Erik will continue on the committee as the Grad Student. Scott reports that Student Government will likely appoint the two other students- 1 resident and 1 commuter.

Recommendations to go forward to RIC Council–

That Chief Ghio be invited to first meeting of the 2016/17 year in the fall to report on a number of security concerns including crisis intervention & lighting.

That the new Director of Facilities and Operations under the direction of the VP for Administration and Finance, review and evaluate the automated Track it system for physical plant work orders as well as the general process for assigning and completing work orders.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel H. Carpenter, Assoc. Prof/Library

Appendix E

Committee Communication from Don Tencher to Marie Wilks (Chair-Student Life Committee), December 10, 2016.

Marie:

Thank you for your email and I welcome Chief Ghio to add any other information he might have. In response to your lighting question the lighting has been increased extensively that last few years and the plan is to continue to increase lighting throughout the campus. A plan has been developed with much of it to be implemented in the next 24 months with more lighting being planned for the budget as we move forward. This summer the largest enhancement in lighting the college's history occurred from the Mt. Pleasant entrance to the Roberts Hall area and the parking lot B area which included enhancement of pedestrian walkway lighting from mid campus to the east campus. A new template for all future light fixtures which will provide HD lighting at a more efficient price with more illumination capability. Bottom line under President Carriuolo and Ms. Teal's leadership the college continues to be enhanced in numerous ways with lighting and safety being a top priority, look for a continued increase in lighting in the next 12-16 months inside and out. Please note several town hall meetings were held last year to discuss these improvements to the campus community and very few people showed up to hear about the updates and provide input.

As it relates to employee orientation and indoctrination I recommend you forward your questions to Maggie Sullivan our Director of Human Resources. With reference to the overall campus response I would like to make the following comments. A few years ago we worked hand and hand with homeland security and local first responders to sponsor one of the most comprehensive active shooter drills in the area. It went very well and we as a college learned and educated ourselves on best practices. Unfortunately the only issue was that law enforcement wanted to have a very realistic drill in the main part of the campus but the drill was forced at the last minute to the east campus. Chief Ghio has been working diligently under the directive of President Carriuolo and VP Teal to review all the written narratives related to our emergency plans and these should be finished to the presentation stage by early spring. Additionally, there are a number of us that meet as a group and with the local and state police on a regular basis to discuss strategies, we also meet extensively with the fire department. In the last two weeks our action plans were called on and worked flawlessly with a suspicious package delivered to the mail room, and with a briefcase left unattended this week in front of Roberts Hall. All of our employees worked collectively and flawlessly together to handle these crisis'. Other activities that have taken place is during safety week Chief Ghio put on a mini-workshop regarding campus safety. Also, Chief Ghio recently addressed RIC Council in which he made a presentation, answered questions and welcomed questions and ideas. Last Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, and it is done ongoing basis, the campus alert systems were tested with all of the blue phones sending out messages. A major disappointment for those of us dealing with safety is the gross number of people who have not been willing to register for our campus alert system, a component to our plan that law enforcement feels is so important. Some of the videos on the campus website were recently place there as a result of some questions, part of the issue as the state police SWAT commander tells us time and time again very often people want specific steps on what to do and everyone needs to be educated by every source possible but there are no

specific answers, people in the event of an unlikely emergency need to think on their feet. Just over the last several national incidents the thing that continues to be communicated by local law enforcement in the critical importance of the first few minutes in response, warnings, etc. and we continue to work on those issues with the tools we have available.

So again thank you for your interest. Campus police is willing to engage and educate whenever needed. We love ideas we will continue to develop plans to make the campus safer.

From: Wilks, Marie A.

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 2:39 PM

To: Ghio, Frederick W.; Tencher, Donald E.

Cc: Kane, Scott D.; Berardis, Eric; Sibielski, Rosalind A.; Carpenter, Rachel H.; Salhany, Joseph K.; Giacalone, Michael; Obel-Omia, Carolyn H.

Subject: RE: Student Life Committee Meeting SU 422>

Importance: High

Dear Chief Ghio and Mr. Tencher:

On behalf of the Student Life Committee there have been two specific concerns that require your attention and response.

1. The Committee heard concerns from a student regarding lack of lighting on campus: “ College Road is inadequately lit for the students commuting from the dormitories as well as for those passing through the areas around the Alex and Ani Center and Henry Barnard School. Around the student union parking lot, I have seen that the lighting at the crosswalks, as well as on the surrounding buildings, is simply too dim for commuters (drivers) to see the students in the crosswalk as they pass”

2. In light of increased crises on campuses throughout the country, many concerns have been voiced regarding how safe are we on the RIC campus. Though it was acknowledged that there are safety videos, etc on the campus police safety/security webpage, the committee would like to know when faculty, staff and/or students are oriented to this material. Also noted that one of the links may also be out-of-date. This does not seem to appear as a tutorial at new employee or new student orientation...so it is unclear who would view these in a crisis; and, if in fact, do we have a crises intervention plan/emergency response.

We look forward to either your individual or collective response.

Marie Wilks, Chair

Student Life Committee