

President's Council Minutes
November 16, 2020 via Zoom
Prepared by: Deb Zielinski

Attendees: Meghan Hughes, Alix Ogden, Deb Zielinski, Allyson Handley, Amy Kacerik, Amy Kempe, Barbara Nauman, Bob Cipolla, Bobby Gondola, Suzanne Carr, Michael Cunningham, Sara Enright, George Hart, Greg LaPointe, Kelly Morrissey, Kristen Albritton, Mike McNally, Phil Gordon, Ron Cavallaro, Rosemary Costigan, Sean Collins, Sybil Bailey, Tara Swift, Jude Tomasino, and Zdenko Juskuv. Absent: Tracy Karasinski

Minutes of 5/6/20 (previously distributed)

Meghan called for a motion to approve the Council minutes dated 5/6/20. Alix made a motion to approve, Rosemary seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved. Abstentions included Barbara, Tara, and Allyson (they were not in attendance at that meeting).

President's Update

1. Meghan welcomed the new members of the President's Council, Allyson Handley, Barbara Nauman, and Tara Swift.
2. Meghan spoke about the pandemic and its impact on the college, updated the group on happenings in the Division of Workforce Partnerships, our FY21 and FY22 budgets, and RI Promise.
Meghan concluded with acknowledging the difficult financial position of the college and the measures that were being taken to address it.

Student Handbook

Michael shared the handbook on screen and reviewed the changes, the majority of which related to the changes in the Title IX regulations. There were specific questions related to medical marijuana, and animals on campus (this policy was previously approved and is now being added to the handbook). Meghan, Sara, and Ron thanked Michael for his work – it was an enormous project. Ron moved to approve the motion and Sara seconded it. There was no opposition. The changes were approved.

Policy Presentations

Rosemary brought forward the policy on Online Learning, noting that it is an updated policy from 2008 and covers quality frameworks, outlines differences of online course delivery, addresses faculty and Academic Affairs responsibilities.

Alix moved to approve the policy. Ron seconded it.. There was then extensive discussion related to caps. After the discussion, Alix made a motion to table the policy, Kristen seconded it , Motion to table was approved.

Rosemary then moved on to the IRB Policy. It will allow CCRI fulltime faculty to submit research proposals to the URI IRB for research consideration. Rosemary made the motion to approve the policy, Bobby seconded it. Motion was approved

Divisional Updates

Academic Affairs – Rosemary Costigan

- Over 250 faculty were trained in the Blackboard Academy this summer. A faculty survey returned results showing greater than a 90% confidence level in teaching remotely.
- More than 12 new certificate and degrees were approved over the past academic year.
- Rosemary welcomed interim deans Allyson Handley and Barbara Nauman

Student Services – Sara Enright

- Final headcount for the fall semester is 13,684 students (1,091 fewer students or 7.4% off last year's fall headcount). She is proud that we are only down 7.4%, as CT is down 11%, MA is down 12%, and NH is also down.
As of today, we are down 30% from this time last year, but once again, we will fight to figure out how to connect with as many students as we possibly can.

Finance & Strategy

- Kristen reiterated the 7.4% decrease in headcount. If we have the same sort of melt for spring, we will be down about \$25m in tuition.
- Kristen presented a deck on the budget.

Administration

- Alix spoke about the college Covid #s.
- We are in Phase 3 – work from home if you can. Outside of HARS, we have not done surveillance testing, but are setting up a drive-thru in Providence, giving us the opportunity to test.
- Alix said the hope is for the \$12m bond to be on the ballot in February (the 3 bonds for higher education).

Institutional Advancement

- 3 new trustees have been elected
- Last month we celebrated Hispanic and LatinX alum, giving kudos to Milly De La Cruz on his team for organizing.
- \$330k in aid was raised to support 400 students; thanks to Kelly Morrissey for her work.