

Council Notes

May 17, 2017

Prepared by: Deb Zielinski

Attendees: Meghan Hughes, Deb Zielinski, Bob Cipolla, Bev Wiley, Zdenko Juskuv, Rosemary Costigan, Bill LeBlanc, Robyn Greene, David Patten, John Cole, Hilary Jansson, Ruth Sullivan, Steve Murray, Leslie Florio, Tony Parziale, Patrick Stone, Sara Enright, Tracy Karasinski, Ron Cavallaro.

President's Remarks:

- Meghan welcomed the Council and opened with an update regarding the free tuition legislation.
 - There is a projection that the state will have a \$100m shortfall statewide. The Governor and Speaker Mattiello have stated their positions. The Speaker doesn't know how the state can afford it.
 - The Governor has indicated that she is open to modifying the legislation based on the news of this shortfall. She has stated that she would be amenable to a means test and phased implementation.
 - Meghan indicated we should know more by the end of the month. Her role is to secure the funding necessary to run this college effectively and hopes that the legislation will help us do that.
 - Our challenge will be in that it gives Academic Affairs and Student Services a very short window to get this done well.
 - It excludes 92% of the students we serve.
 - A phased implementation may mean just starting with CCRI.
 - The intent of the legislation is to graduate more students.
 - Alix noted that there has been some discussion about GPA requirements, and we have been educating the legislators about who the students are that we serve.
 - Zdenko questioned whether it would be only for graduating high school seniors, and that is correct. Meghan's belief is that it should be every student, full-time, part-time, any age. The state only feels it would be affordable for graduating high school seniors.
- Meghan then gave a Workforce Development update.
 - By December 31, 2017, the college intends to have meaningful partnerships in each of the Brookings sectors, and we are well on our way to that goal (roughly halfway).
 - It sends a strong message to our students and the state that we are fulfilling their expectations. It is as great partnership between Academic Affairs and CWCE.
- Meghan announced the successful hiring of a new Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX.
 - Elizabeth Canning will be here on June 6. Elizabeth spent close to 20 years as a public defender and then went into higher education. She served as the Title IX coordinator for JWU and was recruited to Holy Cross. Meghan

indicated that she had never heard such strong references. Elizabeth will be working across all divisions and is looking forward to being part of building something.

- This will immediately take the Title IX work from Sheri, and we will then work on how we diversify our hires because of the many retirees moving on.
- On the subject of retirees, Meghan acknowledged Bill LeBlanc's 33 years of devoted service to the college, noting that when she first met Bill, it was clear how much he is committed to CCRI. Meghan thanked him for his service. Bill added that he considers his job a service to our students, our college, and our state.

Report from Student Affairs:

- Sara likewise thanked Bill.
- Sara used a PowerPoint presentation related to Fall 2017 enrollment, stating that we are about 50% through our fall enrollment period. She commented that we are not in a great place today, so we have work to do across all divisions.
 - As of Monday, we are 7.15% off of where we were this time last year. We do have the time and opportunity to turn things around.
 - We are doing better bringing new students in for the fall from this time last year.
 - We have been successful moving students through the process. Removing the Accuplacer fee barrier has been helpful.
 - We are down about 5% in total credits.
 - There are several things we can do to improve enrollment, such as (1) increasing communication (phone calls + text messaging + social media); (2) sharing key messages (e.g. degree before transfer matters); removing barriers, such as dropped small balance hold, implemented Master Schedule with fewer course conflicts, and streamlining transfer pathways to RIC and URI; and (3) opening up opportunities, such as continuous enrollment management, college-level course access (e.g., multi measures, PLA), expansion of online offerings, and increase in e-classrooms to increase capacity.
- There is data that shows that a student who graduates with an associate degree is more inclined to get their bachelor degree.
- Rosemary stated that they are working with faculty on course availability – seeing where we can open more sections for what students want.

Report from Business Affairs:

- Dave gave an update on College Police, reporting that there will be a focus on planning, training, and communication with the college community
 - **Planning** involves working with local Police Departments, Rhode Island State Police and other authorities. Dave stated that we are pursuing RIPAC accreditation (Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission), as is URI and RIC. The certification reflects a commitment to professional standards

similar to the NEASC accreditation which the College achieves. CCRI has partnered with the RIEMA and Director Gaynor to improve our Emergency Management Plan. Plan, train, and follow-up. Included in planning is the planned physical security upgrades. Dave reported that we will be moving the College Police desk to the main entrance outside the bookstore to be more visible and easily accessible. Additionally, he reported that we have begun the access control upgrade in Warwick (Lincoln and Providence are complete); CCTV for common areas in Warwick is being engineered and will be bid out in the Fall in accordance with the policy that this group approved.

- **Training** is both internal and external to the College Police Department. Dave said that, internally, College Police go through training on many aspects of police work. The department does in-service training with the RIMPTA for such topics as NARCAN, CPR, Mental Health First Aid, Sexual Assault Prevention, CSA, Title IX and many others. Outside of College Police, the department does training of faculty, staff, and students. Dave commented that this is an area that we have to improve upon. Dave reminded the Council that it has seen some of this starting with the Active Shooter Training, PDD sessions, and CSA training. College Police now has two newly-certified trainers in Rape Aggression Defense (or RAD). This will be offered to students, staff, and faculty in the fall. Dave said that the important part of the “Emergency Management Plan” is that it requires training of faculty, staff, and students to keep it a living document. Under the Clery Act, the College is also required to exercise the plan. Dave advised that we will see much more of this in the coming months. Training is for when people have responsibilities and duties and are part of the response. More broadly, College Police will also be focusing on communications.
- **Communications**, Dave feels is perhaps the most important element of our strategy, which means ensuring that all students, staff, and faculty are knowledgeable in how to respond to different situations should they present themselves. Dave said that we are implementing a Central Dispatch for all College Police activities across all four campuses. College Police is increasing its efforts to partner more closely with groups at the College. Dave also said that they are working with Patrick Stone in Marketing & Communications and IT to use technology more effectively to reach the community, such as ALERTUS, which is a new enhancement to the RAVE system. ALERTUS takes over RSS feeds and alerts via desktop notifications, even the electronic marquee.
- In closing, Dave said that safety and security will never be “good enough.” Making people feel safe and secure will happen only by all of us working together. College Police and Administration will provide the leadership, but it is only through all of our engagement and partnership that we will succeed.

Report from Academic Affairs:

TBD

Miscellaneous:

- Meghan said that, should the meeting move along quickly, everyone should be prepared to briefly comment on what is happening in their areas.
- Robyn talked about vanBuren; the charitable foundation always asks what they can do in Newport. They are looking for a project that incorporates PTech, the defense sector, and they are encouraging the college to develop a CISCO lab. Meghan said that Cyber Security is a high-priority opportunity.
- Ruth S. stated that the library is doing interesting things with Open Educational Resources. Faculty are evaluating electronic textbooks; students complain about the cost of traditional textbooks, and OER identifies low cost or free options. We have faculty using them in Biology and Computer Studies. There is information on the library's web page. Regarding CITLA, they are working on new faculty orientation and mentoring. It will include classroom management, different pedagogies, active learning, and workshops. They are also looking at a mentoring program for experienced faculty to mentor new.
- Tony reported that Blackboard is down right now for an upgrade, offering details. He said that we are hoping to turn over computers every 4 years. There was a 58% response rate from faculty regarding their computer preference. 120 laser projectors are on order to replace the light projectors in classrooms. Conference rooms will be updated. We have applied to Champlin to fund eight more smart classrooms. Ten new e-classrooms are coming on board with flip-top desks.
- Patrick reported that M&C's #1 priority is the fall push for enrollment.
- Bob C. said that A&C's two main goals are (1) getting new students registered and advised and (2) getting continuing students registered and advised. They are doing this. They have a number of new student registrations. For continuing students, Bob said that they are offering the opportunity of walk-in or appointments to meet counselors. Everything they do relates to registration and retention.