

## **Council Notes**

**November 16, 2016**

**Prepared by: Deb Zielinski**

**Attendees: Meghan Hughes, Deb Zielinski, Meo Colantonio, Antonio Angelino, Steve Murray, Alphonso Atkins, Zdenko Juskuv, Douglas Flor, Tracy Karasinski, Tony Parziale, Rosemary Costigan, Hilary Jansson, John Cole, Gene Grande, Ron Schertz, Robyn Greene, Izabel DeAraujo Rivera, Ron Cavallaro, Peter Woodberry, Sara Enright, Alix Ogden.**

### **President's Remarks:**

- Meghan welcomed Tony Angelino and Zdenko Juskuv.
- There was a moment of silence in memory of Walter Crocker. Meghan talked about future plans to honor him, which included the Liston Holiday Coffee Hour, and an event in the spring.
- The RFP for a strategic planning consultant is presently at State Purchasing. The timeline will allow us to begin the work early next year. Meghan is looking for a firm with an exceptional track record of doing inclusive work so that everyone at the college has multiple opportunities to participate in the planning.
- Meghan reported that the PSC approved a 7% tuition increase last week for the three state institutions. Over the summer, we were told that 4.5% is what we could expect, and we were advised that we could make a case for a significantly higher increase. We are happy with the support of the PSC. This evening, the Board of Education will consider the budget; then the Governor, and finally the legislature. Meghan talked about the video that she will tape and send to the college community which outlines why we made the budget request and the impact on our students. Meghan requested that we watch it, and if students have questions, please share this information. If you have additional questions, please talk to Sara, Ron, and staff in Student Services. With a 7% increase, CCRI is still below the Pell threshold. If you look at our regional peer institutions, with the 7%, we remain in the same position in terms of expenses.
- This is our first tuition increase in three years. Over the last decade, we only had three increases. 88.5% of the 7% increase is going to meet our contractual obligations and health care costs. It is funding what we are mandated to provide our people. The balance will allow us to streamline the enrollment process. It is not an easy decision to make, but we need to do it to run our college.
- Sara's team continues to work on our convoluted admissions program. We have a difficult process that is a deterrent to enrollment, and the team is working to simplify it.
- Zdenko asked if there is any matching increase in state funding. Meghan responded that, until June when the General Assembly completes the budget process, anything can happen. The current proposed budget proposes an increase of \$2.9m. Meghan has been working with the PSC and others to make the case that the colleges and the university should be treated differently. CCRI should be funded at a higher

level because, historically, we have been funded below our peers. In the current higher education budget, all three institutions receive the 7% increase.

- With regard to CWCE, Meghan thanked Meo and Jaime and shared that she is excited about the conversations about workforce development and reorganizing the department to make it more effective. We will begin posting for new leadership early next year. Meghan stated that at our next meeting, she will provide an update as to where we are headed. We will continue to move workforce training partnerships forward, and we are having productive conversations with partnerships in each of the seven sectors identified in the Brookings Report.

### **PLA Policy: Discussion and Action:**

- Rosemary commented that as part of the TAACCCT 3 grant, there was a component for PLA. Dr. Doug Flor assumed the role of coordinator for this project and performed a gap analysis of prior learning statements posted in the catalog, on the Web, and at OPC. Following the gap analysis, Dr. Flor developed a policy and procedure that would provide clarity and was accessible to students, requirements of NEASC. Doug is here today to answer any questions, along with Peter. What you have is a codification of the processes that were in place. Doug took each of the catalog statements and put them all into one policy. The policy was brought to the Academic Advisory Committee and was supported unanimously. Rosemary made a recommendation to adopt the policy. She feels we will see an increase in students utilizing it. Roughly 1% use PLA. There is a significant increase in completion rates for students who seek and receive credit for prior learning. Their overall graduation rates are in the 60% range.
- Hilary made a motion to approve the PL policy, which was seconded by Peter. Ron C. then moved that the policy be amended to change the title from “Prior Learning Assessment” to “Prior Learning Policy” which was seconded by Steve M. The motion to amend the policy’s title was unanimously approved. A vote was then taken to approve the PL policy as amended, and it was unanimously approved.

### **Enrollment:**

- Sara presented a PowerPoint (slides attached). She stated that Fall 2016 enrollment is down 7% from Fall 2015.
- We have momentum, and we want to move that into the spring. Spring 2015 had enrollment of 15,027, and we want to stay close to that number.
- There is a strong sense that it will take a full-court press to turn this around. Sara said that we are all responsible for encouraging students to enroll. For example, ask your students if they have registered for the spring. Take a minute in your class to inquire. The more people who ask and encourage, students are more likely to enroll. Sara said that her team is available to attend department meetings to talk to faculty about strategies.
- Meghan talked about the trend of lowering enrollment across the country. The 4-years are competing for our students, as well as online schools. She talked about how it is important for our students to complete their degrees here.

- Sara acknowledged that the online trend is increasing; it is an area of opportunity for us. Patrick Stone, our new M&C Director, came from Bristol CC. All of BCC's growth is online, and many of these students are coming from RI. We want to win these students back; it is a huge opportunity.
- Steve felt that what gets students to sign up is a "deal" and suggested creating a contest of sorts – "sign up by [date] and win a prize." We want to create a buzz. The team thought it was a good idea.
- Ron S. said that students are looking for special opportunities to identify pathways. We have to look at what we offer; it is driving students' interest and think about adding courses to meet these interests.
- Meghan said that she suggested to Patrick to have some focus groups with members of the Council to get their ideas about supporting enrollment.

### **Persistence, Completion and Transfer: Presentation:**

- In the spring, we will roll out the master schedule – we have some ability to add courses.
- Rosemary spoke about Developmental Ed (citing our partnership with RIDE), noting that 66% of our students need it. This fall we used a multiple measures approach to determine placement in developmental ed classes. There were 108 Math students that went into the college gateway course who would have been put in a developmental class if the sole tool was the Accuplacer. Our goal is to make sure that our students are not wasting time and money on developmental classes that are not needed.
- Rosemary reported that faculty have come up with an experimental Math course (8050), mirroring RIC's 010.
- With regard to Guided Pathways, URI has seven; RIC has five. Hilary is working on a Guided Pathway for Health Sciences.
- Meghan emphasized completion. There are key legislators and PSC members who are not educational practitioners, and we need to help them develop their understanding about our college. However, even well-informed people, including Barbara Brittingham of NEASC, share our concern about our graduation rates. We have been asked to report to NEASC about the steps we are taking to improve the graduation rate.
- Meghan talked about reverse transfer and the Governor's focus on Rhode Islanders getting their degrees. Marketing & Communications will be charged to bring students back to CCRI to complete their degree. This is important because an associate degree is key to finding high demand, high wage employment.