A green and white logo

Description automatically generated**THE**

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**OF RHODE ISLAND** FACULTY SENATE

**CCRI FACULTY SENATE**

Draft Minutes for October 18, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 9:00 a.m.
   * Roll Call
   * 33 Senators present
   * 11 Senators absent
   * A quorum is established
2. **DISPOSITION OF MINUTES** of September 13, 2024 meeting
   * Motion to accept: Senator Mowry
   * Second: Senator Egan-Kunicki
   * All in favor except for 1 abstentions, no opposition
   * Minutes approved
3. **REPORT OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT** 
   * Reminded committees to set meeting dates through December 2024 to Secretary Araujo and create Outlook invitations for each meeting, add Faculty Senate email and Secretary Araujo to invites.
   * Requested committees send AY 24-25 goals to Secretary Araujo
   * Provided update on Merge Course Committee, which passed last year, and structure Leadership Committee agreed up during leadership meeting October 11, 2024. Anyone interested in should contact President Swithers.
4. **REPORT OF THE SENATE VICE PRESIDENT** 
   * Recapped Leadership Committee meeting that took place October 11, 2024: Leadership reviewed and approved agenda for October 18, 2024 meeting, reviewed and provided feedback on draft of Course Caps resolution from the Online Learning Committee, reviewed and approved the structure of the special committee for identifying exceptions for the Merge Course, and discusses options for virtual attendance for Faculty Senate meetings for the college community.
5. **ACTIONS FOR SENATE CONSIDERATION**

**Approve New Committee Members to Senate Committees:**

* + - Motion to approve: Senator Rieger 2nd: Senator Friel
    - Discussion: None
    - All in favor, no abstentions nor opposition

**Action Items:**

**Online Course Caps Resolution**

* Senator Morgan discussed course cap resolution and acknowledged new information received would like to refer the resolution back to the Online Learning Committee.
* Motion from Senator Morgan to refer resolution back to committee
* 2nd: Senator Araujo
* Discussion:
  + - * + Senator Moritz requested clarification on the reason behind referring back to committee is in light of new information
        + Senator Morgan confirmed
* The Senate voted to refer Course Caps Resolution back to the Online Learning Committee
  + - * + Approve: 31 Abstain: 2 Oppose: 0

1. **REPORT OUT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**a. Academic Standards and Policy- Chair, Jennifer O’Rourke:** Committee met, discussed AY 24-25 goals, among which are the goals to unify the standards for assigning an Incomplete grade and the grading scale

**b. Academic Technology – Chair, Andrew Goodman:** Committee’s key goals are continuing their work on the LMS, for which there will be an update soon, drafting a Budget Resolution to voice support for increasing the budget for technology, and working with the Staff Assembly to develop a college-level policy and procedure for the adoption of software. They are also working with Jim Bradley the iPad Program.

**c. Constitution, By-laws, College Governance Manual and Election Committee – Chair, Jillian Lang:** Committee and subcommittees have met and are working on the language of the Constitution and By-laws in order to revise for consistency and clarity. They are also working on the Shared Governance Resolution and hope to have that presented in the November meeting.

**d. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Chair, Theodore Clement:** Committee met, and they are working on policy for adhering to federal law on DSS accommodations, continuing work on the Religious and Cultural Observance Resolution draft, and developing and understanding faculty roles and responsibilities as and HSI institution. They are also working on drafting guiding principles for the DEI Committee of the Faculty Senate.

**e. General Education – Chair, Christopher Carruba:** First meeting was an introduction and recap of last year’s agenda. Listed courses that got rolled back as far as General Education approval: AAAF 1290, which will be voted on at next meeting, and POLS 1030, which git sent back for revisions and may be voted on at next meeting if revisions made in time. For AY 24-25, they will work on possible revisions to General Education Policy, the Definition of an Educated Person, and revising some of the language in Core Abilities, including possibly integrating AI into the language. They are in the discussion stage regarding modifying language in the General Education Policy to align language with specific associate degrees.

**f. Online Learning – Chair, Inglish Morgan:** Committee met to discuss last year’s agenda and are trying to narrow own precise set of goals and outcomes for the committee that align with the Educated Person.

**g. Student and College Success – Chair, Leslie Dolan:** Committee met and decided on goals: they are working with IT to add syllabus statements to Blackboard shells. The Work-Based Learning Subcommittee also met, and they have no course heading to CRC yet.

**h. Teaching and Assessment – Chair, Joseph Silva:** Committee is working on researching student access to required course textbooks, whether they can get free access in terms of library or departmental holdings. They are also working on how they can support the Teaching and Learning Center in terms of seven-week course preparedness. They also met with the Co-Req Review Academic Assessment Council. Social Services Program completed their APR in Spring 2024, so the committee will put out their recommendations. They are also reviewing how they can assess other programs like JAA transfers.

1. **REPORT OUT FROM AI INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (AIICC)**
   * Discussed who is part of the AIICC, what they do, and what their guiding principles are, which includes drafting an AI framework for the entire college community that is aligned with the CCRI Strategic Plan and addresses the ethical use of AI throughout the college. Their goal is to convene and charge ad hoc groups to address specific AI-related issues in a clear and equitable way. Their three points of focus are to provide a Humane, Authentic, and Informed Resolution, and they are seeking faculty feedback on the current draft via feedback survey.
     + Discussion included concerns about response about AI, larger goals surrounding AI, and benefits of AI for faculty and administrators.
2. **REPORT OF THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT** 
   * Rosemary Costigan, Interim College President
     + Reported that October 17, 2024 concluded CCRI’s 10-year accreditation process. The college received their official letter from NECHE with lots of accolades, including the “re-energized” governance system at the college. There are no follow-up reports due, which is a first in a couple of cycles. There was acknowledgement of assessment efforts.
     + On September 27, 2024, President Costigan, Vice President Sullivan, and Dr. Lauren Webb attended the final meeting before the commissioners, which was the last step.
     + NECHE requested to hold a meeting at CCRI, and they held a Fall Meeting here, after which President Costigan received a note where the President of NECHE wrote about CCRI.
     + On Wednesday, October 16, 2024, President Costigan presented CCRI’s proposed budget, submitting the service level budget and a constrained budget, which is a seven and a half percent reduction from current service level. Discussed the planning values discussed at the Town Hall, including the current service level values and subsequent gaps due to insufficient coverage of bills. So, they will be going to the General Assembly in the spring to request supplemental funding in the amount of $650,000 to restore state to their 48% contribution.
     + President and Vice Presidents are meeting biweekly to ensure that they are keeping the float through the fiscal year. The current float is $8 million dollars, which is about 85 positions, but the float will go up to $10 million in FY 25, which is about 100 positions.
     + In terms of the constrained budget, the increase in tuition they would be asking for is 9.9%, which takes CCRI to about $6,000, which still keeps CCRI in the middle. Massachusetts has now gone to fully-free community college for all ages. President Costigan did advocate at the Facilities and Finance and would like to see a conversation in Rhode Island surrounding that.
     + Regarding operating needs, CCRI is seeing modest growth, but has still sustained a 15% reduction pre-pandemic. To grow enrollment, President Costigan sees online as an opportunity as well as working with RIC and URI to share services for efficiency.
     + Reported that this year, there was a decline in first-time full-time students while, because of the Hope Scholarship, RIC is up three hundred. There is also additional competition from the private colleges.
     + However, there is still an opportunity to grow in the online modality and programming, especially in Newport in the Aquidneck Islands. CCRI is close to having a certificate in Hospitality and Tourism, and there has been a needs assessment of feasibility study about Culinary for the Newport campus, and the results were supportive.
     + CCRI received a $250,000 from the Department of Labor and Training to work with the Laborers International Union to do a bridge course to prepare high school students who are looking to go into the skilled trades unions.
     + In January 2025, CCRI’s Title III will come to a close, so we will be able to apply for a Title V in January, and new Director of DEI, Joshua Seguí-Rodríguez, will work with DEI Council on applying for federal funding.
     + Presidential search update: the RFP has closed for an agency to conduct the Presidential search. There was a timeline attached, with a date of March 2025 for the selection of the permanent candidate and a start date of July 1, 2025.
     + Thanked those who were involved in the Advantage Program. Early signs are high retention rates and good feedback about embedded tutors.
     + Dealer Training School is off and running at Bally’s.
3. **REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
   * Barbara Nauman, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs
     + Reported that second seven-week session begins October 31, 2024. Currently, there are 233 sections open for the second seven-week session, and they have a 92% fill rate. Of the 233 sections, 107 are in AHS, 49 are in BSTM, 7 are in HARS, and 12 are in Learning Resources
     + Winter and Spring schedules are being finalized by the academic departments in alignment with Enrollment management, and registration opens on November 11, 2024.
     + Fall Open House is on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at the Knight Campus. Last Knight Campus Open House had a record number 400 families.
     + PATH Days are coming up at the four campuses: October 28, 2024 at the Liston campus, October 29, 2024 at the Flanagan campus, October 30, 2024 at the Knight campus, and November 7, 2024 at the Newport Campus.
4. **DISCUSSION FOR PRESIDENT**
   * President Costigan answered questions regarding measures other colleges are taking in their constrained budget and response to Massachusetts fully-free community college.
5. **ADJOURNMENT**
   * Motion: Senator Rieger
   * Second: Senator Goodman
   * All in Favor
   * Meeting adjourned at 10:33am