A green and white logo

Description automatically generated**THE**

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**OF RHODE ISLAND** FACULTY SENATE

**CCRI FACULTY SENATE**

Draft Minutes for December 13, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 9:00 a.m.
   * Roll Call
   * 27 Senators present
   * 16 Senators absent
   * A quorum is established
2. **DISPOSITION OF MINUTES** of November 1, 2024 meeting
   * Motion to accept: Vice President Lynch
   * Second: Senator Valicenti
   * Discussion: None
   * All in favor except for 3 abstentions, no opposition
   * Minutes approved
3. **REPORT OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT** 
   * Reported that Allison Robinson, Director, Office of Disability Accessibility for Students (DAS) is seeking two faculty members to join a Fundamental Alteration Committee for issues in accommodations compliance. Please reach out to President Swithers if interested.
   * Congratulated Senators Tyler and Gaboury on their tenure and promotion to Associate Professor and promotion to full professor, respectively.
4. **REPORT OF THE SENATE VICE PRESIDENT** 
   * Recapped Leadership Committee meeting that took place December 6, 2024: Leadership reviewed and approved agenda for the December 13, 2024 meeting, reviewed the draft of the Academic Technology Committee resolutions on Community Resolution on AI Usage and Sustained Technology Funding.
5. **ACTIONS FOR SENATE CONSIDERATION**

**Action Items:**

**Community Resolution on AI Usage Resolution**

* Senator Goodman discussed the resolution to formally adopt the Community Resolution on AI Usage as an official statement of principles relating to the ethical use of AI by all members of the CCRI community.
* Discussion addressed questions about whether there will be faculty resources on AI and promoted the CTE Winter Workshop, which will feature a Keynote Speaker on AI literacy for adults and is open for registration on the CTE Website.
* Point of Order: Senator Goodman discussed parallel resolution in the Staff Assembly and requested motion to amend the language to match the Staff Assembly, specifically changing “inequalities” to “inequities” in the following section of the resolution:
  + Ensures that the procurement and deployment of AI at the Community College of Rhode Island does not contribute to or exacerbate inequalities within the institution and instead reduces inequalities and equity gaps.
* Motion from Senator Lang to approve amending resolution: Senator Goodman
* 2nd: Vice President Lynch
* Discussion: Question posed and answered as to specific word change.
* Motion to approve Resolution on AI Usage: Senator Lang
* 2nd: Senator LeVasseur
* The Senate voted to approve the Resolution on AI Usage in a roll call vote**.**
  + Approve: 29 Reject: 0 Abstain: 0

**Sustained Technology Funding Resolution**

* Senator Goodman discussed the resolution to prioritize increased funding for the Information Technology (IT) Department in the upcoming budgetary cycle.
* Motion from Senator Goodman to refer the resolution back to committee for more dialogue with stakeholders.
* 2nd: Senator Moritz
* Discussion: None
* The Senate voted to refer the Sustained Technology Funding Resolution back to committee in a unanimous vote.

1. **REPORT OUT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**a. Academic Standards and Policy- Chair, Jennifer O’Rourke:** Committee is currently working on the incomplete policy language and how to revise it while not impacting academic freedom. Committee discussed other grading policies and needs to do further research, which will continue into Spring 2024

**b. Academic Technology – Chair, Andrew Goodman:** Committee is meeting today, December 13, 2024, to discuss the RFP (Request for Proposal) and will vote for the langue of the RFP. Back in May 2024, the committee conducted a survey in conjunction with Beth Anish and will report results in January.

**c. Constitution, By-laws, College Governance Manual and Election Committee – Chair, Jillian Lang:** Nothing to report

**d. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion –Senator Jill Guindon-Nasir in place of Chair, Theodore Clement:** Committee is working on Religious and Cultural Observances for Students Resolution are currently working with the Title IX (9) office to ensure the draft is in alignment with RI and federal law. HSI Subcommittee is collaborating with the office of DEI to highlight faculty's role in honoring our Hispanic Serving Institution designation. The final draft of the Bill on the Civil Rights of Accommodations for Students with Disabilities was approved by the DEI committee. The next step will be a public hearing in early spring. The DEI committee also discussed thoughts and concerns about potential changes from the new administration.

**e. General Education – Chair, Christopher Carruba:** Committee revised the Core Abilities of the Definition of the Educated Person to incorporate the optional use of AI into Information Literacy. They have one more Core Ability to work on before presenting to the full senate. The committee is also looking at the effects on transfer degrees and working on policy language to tackle the change from current general education studies to the concentrations they are transferring into under JAA.

**Discussion:** Addressed issues surrounding language clarity on revisions.

**f. Online Learning – Senator Soudabeh Valicenti in place of Chair Inglish Morgan:** Committee met on November 22, 2024, and had Dr. Lauren Webb present on the purpose and significance of assessment tool. Dr. Webb compared Qualtrics, Blackboard, and EAC assessment tools and outlined a timeline for the assessment process, the results of which are due by June 22, 2025.

**g. Student and College Success – Chair, Leslie Dolan:** Committee members were not present to report out.

**h. Teaching and Assessment – Chair, Joseph Silva:** Reported that, onNovember 1, 2024, Roger Hart was a guest as part of a CCRIcommittee that's affiliated with the American Association of Colleges and universities, which is a global organization improve equity in undergraduate education. The committee was seeking faculty Senate support in the form of a resolution calling for CCRI to be more proactive in using open education resources, presenting data the benefits for students, and the TAC is considering how can it also benefit for the institution itself in terms of retention and higher enrollments. Also, the Program Review and Academic Advisory Council (PRAAC) met and went over the mission statement, as well as a vision statement for CCRI, and discussed assessment in terms of cap increases for online courses. They also reviewed assessment reporting modules and discussed how many times they want to assess in terms of a cycle, e.g., a yearly cycle, every two years, or every three. The TAC is meeting today, December 13, 2024.

**j.** **Merge Course Special Committee – President Swithers:** The committee met for the first time last week for an introductory meeting and set up the timeline for looking at possible exceptions of the Merge Course Policy, which will be presented by the end of the year.

1. **REPORT OUT FROM THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**
   * Senator Jill Guindon-Nasir
     + Announced the first ever CCRI Women and Business Club has been formalized and will launch its executive board on Monday, December 16, 2024. Despite the name, which is to be consistent with other colleges, the club is all inclusive and is open to people outside of business and who don’t identify as women.
2. **REPORT OF THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT** 
   * Rosemary Costigan, Interim College President
     + Congratulated all faculty who received tenure and promotion.
     + Commended all senate committees for all their work.
     + Reported that two programs were approved at the Council meeting. Also reported that *Excelencia,* and HSI think tank, welcomed CCRI into their group for a two-year plan to get the Seal of *Excelencia* certification.
     + Reported that she attended the December NECHE meeting, which focused on the impact of the incoming administration on higher education, and she affirmed CCRI’s commitment to DEI.
     + Announced the unveiling of President Meghan Hughes’ portrait will take place on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 4pm in Conference Room 4090, which is sponsored by the Alumni Association.
     + Spoke on the beautiful holiday party that took place on December 12, 2024 at the President’s House.
     + Regarding the presidential search, President Costigan reported that the search is in its final stages, with a timeline ending July 1, 2025, and that there are also two internal searches taking place: one for VP of Institutional Advancement, which is in its final stages, and one for VP of Workforce, which is in its beginning stages.
       - Discussion: Discussion of DEI programs and the potential landscape posed by incoming administration as well as impact on funding and HSI funding possibilities.
3. **REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
   * Barbara Nauman, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs
     + Named all faculty who received promotion (six were promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor and three were promoted from Associate Professor to Full Professor) and tenure (ten faculty received tenure) and congratulated them.
     + Reported that they are currently looking into getting everything into the catalog by December 31, 2024. Currently, there are 89 JAA courses approved and five on the docket for today’s CRC meeting, all of which will need to be updated into the catalog.
     + Commended Senator Guindon-Nasir for her work on the fully online Hospitality Management Certificate, which was approved and will run in seven-week sessions. They are also working on a Culinary Certificate that aligns with that certificate and are working with a Global Master Chef to fill the current gap between high school and the workplace mentioned by the Rhode Island Hospitality Association.
     + Reported that the Associates in Applied Sciences degree for Surgical Technicians, spearheaded by Maddie Joesphs, also moved through the Office of Post-Secondary Education.
     + Reported that the second seven-week session began on October 31, 2024, and 241 sections ran. The first seven-week session success rate came in at 79% compared to the Fall 2023 15-week success rate of 68%. Fifty Winter J-Term courses are being offered and are all full, with course caps at 28, with 819 students registered.
     + Spring enrollment is currently at 12,319, with 1,839 spring courses currently running.
     + Wished everyone a happy holiday and break.
4. **ADJOURNMENT**
   * Motion: Senator Egan-Kunicki
   * Second: Senator Goodman
   * All in Favor
   * Meeting adjourned at 9:59am