

President's Council Minutes
June 15, 2021, 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, Phil Gordon, Ron Cavallaro, Rosemary Costigan, Sybil Bailey, Tara Swift, Jude Tomasino, Zdenko Juskuv, Tracy Karasinski, and Tekla Moquin.

Minutes of 03/03/21 (previously distributed)

Meghan called for a motion to approve the Council minutes dated 03/03/21. Amy Kempe made a motion to approve, Alix seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

President's Update

1. Meghan advised of an adjustment to the agenda – the Online Learning Policy will not be included today.
2. Meghan updated the group on the RI Promise, our campus police accreditation status, plans to return to campus, strategic planning work (specifically where we are with the CARES funding), and the FY 22 budget, adding that the division heads will provide more detail.
 - a. Meghan informed the team that we received official word yesterday that our campus police earned full accreditation from the RI Police Accreditation Commission, thanking Chief Collins and his command staff for leading this work.
 - b. Meghan asked for ideas on how to spend the CARES funding that would help our students be successful. In total, CCRI received \$76.8m, of which \$30m is allocated for direct student aid. The remaining \$46m is designated for institutional support.

Approval of Administrator Emeriti Application (previously distributed)

Bobby brought forward the application of Sheri Norton. He asked for a motion to approve the application. The motion was made by Michael C., seconded by Deb Z., and unanimously approved, with Jude Tomasino abstaining.

Student Handbook Update

Michael C. shared his screen and reviewed the proposed changes, which included updates to the Academic Grievances section, Public Health Expectations, Sex Offender Policy, and the inclusion of the amended CPE Title IX policy. Meghan asked for a motion to approve the updates. The motion was made by Michael C., seconded by Alix, and unanimously approved.

Policy Presentation

Alix brought forward the Employee Public Health Expectations Policy relative to employee behavioral expectations during the pandemic (previously distributed). She compared it to the content of the re-issue of the employee handbook. Meghan asked for a motion to approve the policy. The motion was made by Amy Kempe, seconded by Alix, and unanimously approved.

Divisional Updates

Academic Affairs – Rosemary Costigan

- A Cyber Security Defense Certificate program proposal will be presented to the OPC at the 6/23/21 meeting.
- We are in the process of hiring 20 new faculty (7 from the AHSS division). 100% are from diverse backgrounds.
- There are six new department chairs (3 elected in March and 3 elected over the past year).
- Rosemary reported on the Caring Campus initiative.
- We have a 92% pass rate in Nursing in the middle of a pandemic; excellent work by faculty and students.

Student Services – Sara Enright

- We are well underway with Summer Session I and are now gearing up for fall. Our focus is the same as it is every year, reaching out to our students.
- We have just over 5,500, 700 fewer than this time last year. 11% down, while last year it was 7%.
- Enrollment Days are scheduled on campus, with the first one on 6/22, and six more on the calendar.

Finance & Strategy – Kristen Albritton

- Regarding the Strategic Plan, Kristen said great responses were received, and she thanked all who participated in providing feedback. The Strategic Plan will be “refreshed” based on this feedback.
- HEERF Funding – we received ARP funds, the third iteration of the federal stimulus. There are requirements as to how the funds are used, and we have to prove numerous things. We are staying on top of the regulations.
- In Auxiliary Services, we have a salad machine coming in the fall, which we are going to try. Aramark has been very responsive.

Administration – Alix Ogden

- Alix reported that a communication will be going out to faculty and staff regarding returning to work full time beginning July 6.
- Alix talked about the work Chief Collins and his team did regarding the accreditation. We will be hosting an accreditation ceremony in the future in recognition of this achievement.
- Alix thanked Amy Kempe and the M&C team for all of their work through the pandemic and for the work they continue to do.
- Our hiring had slowed because of the budget and the pandemic. Sybil and her team are working to get positions up as quickly as possible. The HR team has developed a stronger process than previously in place.

Institutional Advancement – Bobby Gondola

- To date, \$2.8m has been raised with the close of the FY two week away.
- Since we last met, we were approved for \$376k from Champlin, a significant increase over the gift from last year. It will help with Sim Lab 2.0, including a new clinical bay, new diverse mannequins, critical software to help with new and advanced simulation.
- Raising Opportunities raised \$500k for comeback scholarships.

Workforce Partnerships – Tekla Moquin

- Regarding Workforce Development, WPD served over 580 unemployed/underemployed Rhode Islanders through Back to Work.
- We received the Maritime Center of Excellence Designation from MARAD.
- New projects are being developed with industry and Academic Affairs in the areas of insurance, renewable energy, and cloud technology.
- 1300+ drivers have successfully completed School Bus Drive Annual Recertification, with another 100+ due to complete before the end of June.
- Career Services hosted a virtual job fair in April via Handshake, connecting nearly 150 students with over 70 employer partners.
- In Adult Education, we are leveraging State of RI Strada Foundation funding to develop new RI-BEST projects in health care and technology sectors and bringing RI-BEST to Guided Pathways.

In closing, Meghan acknowledged Allyson Handley – joining the college in the midst of a global pandemic and recognizing her for the work she did in her role as interim dean of AHSS in supporting the college’s mission. Allyson shared that this was a delightful assignment and it was a pleasure to have worked with the AA staff.

Adjournment

- Meghan asked for a motion to adjourn; Alix made the motion, it was seconded by Amy Kempe, and the motion was unanimously approved.