

July 24, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you are all enjoying a rewarding summer, whether you are working it at CCRI or focusing on other things. Your faculty association officers have not been idle, so please take a few minutes to read the following important updates.

Contract Negotiations:

On June 25th the CCRIFA negotiating committee had its first meeting with the team representing the Board of Education/CCRI Administration. We presented and explained our rationale for a number of proposals for changes to the contract, but received none from our counterparts. We had met weekly, worked diligently, and engaged with faculty during May and June to develop our proposals. But without something to work with from the other side, proposals or counter-proposals, our work was relatively light for the early part of July. We had negotiations session on local language took place on July 17 and 23 and we received a number of proposals. In upcoming meetings we will work on the proposals on the table and counterproposals.

The CCRIFA is part of the higher education coalition to reach an agreement on wages and benefits. An initial meeting took place on June 6 at which time the coalition presented a proposal. A second meeting scheduled for June 25th was postponed since most of the members of the new Council for Post-Secondary Education of the Board of Education are new to the Board and need more time to respond to our proposal. We don't yet have a date for the rescheduled session.

Changes to the health insurance plan for state employees were passed by the General Assembly and will go into effect January 1, 2015. We will schedule an informational session with representatives from United Healthcare during the fall semester to explain the plan and answer related questions.

We will continue negotiating through August and hope to have contract, compensation, and benefits agreements to present for ratification by members of the Faculty Association early in the Fall semester.

President's Council:

At the President's Council meeting that took place on July 16, President DiPasquale reiterated the budget situation that CCRI is looking at for the next year. With the State budget that passed, CCRI was allocated less than what was requested in order to cover increases in health coverage and other necessary costs and no tuition increases were authorized. The budget included no additional monies for anticipated wage increases. As a result, the administration considers meeting enrollment targets, placing additional scrutiny on purchases, and conducting a complete review of staffing as crucial to the fiscal well-being of the college this year.

Since enrollments will be crucial to the budget, there is interest in any effort to remove barriers to enrollments. Bob Cipolla (Dean of Student Services) discussed the amnesty program under which students who are trying to re-enroll at CCRI and haven't been enrolled in five years may defer their account balance and possibly waive account balance upon successful degree completion. President DiPasquale shared that they are looking into attracting students from southeastern Connecticut who might enroll at CCRI's Westerly campus.

A number of revised and new policies were presented by Tom Pitts (Assistant to the President) for review and approved by the Council. They will go into effect when the President of the College signs off

on them. They will then appear in the CCRI policy manual, but if you would like to see draft policies as they were presented to the President's Council (some passed with minor changes), please email me and I will share them. These were policies about:

- Solicitation
- Access to College Buildings
- Class and Normal Operation Cancellations
- Latex Product Safety
- Dangerous or Deadly Weapons or Devices
- Recycling
- Parking on Campus
- College Police Escort
- College Keys

There were also two policies affecting only students: policies regarding student refund balances under \$1.00 and requesting Social Security or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers from all students applying to the college to comply with 1098T reporting.

Planning for the summer 2015 will begin soon. There was some discussion about targeting and serving different markets during the summer, such as students from other colleges home for break, seasonal residents, and those seeing other personal enrichment or summer camp programs. Enrollment Services, Academic Affairs and the campus coordinators will review statistics about summer enrollments to determine how much impact summer enrollments might have on academic year enrollment before making decisions about promoting summer classes to currently enrolled CCRI students.

Office hours and appointments:

If you have questions or comments about any of these topics, please feel free to contact me or stop by my office in Lincoln or the Faculty Association office in Warwick. I am very willing to arrange a time to meet if you cannot come to my posted office hours. Until next time, enjoy your summer and be well!

Warm regards,
Shawn Parker, CCRIFA President
Office hours for week of July 28:
M 2-4 pm in Flanagan 2361
W 10 am-12 pm and Th 12-2 pm in Knight 3013
And by appointment