

Council Notes

January 30, 2019

Prepared by: Deb Zielinski

Attendees: Meghan Hughes, Deb Zielinski, Robyn Greene, Ron Cavallaro, Rosemary Costigan, Sara Enright, Kristen Albritton, Peter Shoudy, Amy Kempe, Cathy Poirier, Rajiv Malhotra, Thomas Sabbagh, Bruce Busby, Bobby Gondola, Peter Bardsley, Tracy Karasinski, Melissa Fama, Greg LaPointe, Michael Cunningham, Steve Murray, Jude Tomasino, Leslie Florio, Crystal Bergantine, Olivia Nugent (student presenter), and Ulya Aviral (adjunct faculty presenter).

President's Remarks:

Meghan welcomed everyone and introduced Olivia Nugent, a second-year Promise student at CCRI, who is graduating this spring. Olivia shared her story and CCRI experience.

Minutes of 11/28/18 (previously distributed)

Meghan called for a motion to approve the Council minutes dated 11/28/18. Ron C. made a motion to approve, Leslie seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved (with abstentions by Rosemary and Steve M., who did not attend the November meeting).

President's Update:

Meghan welcomed and introduced Amy Kempe, our new Director of Marketing & Communications.. Rosemary introduced Cathy Poirier, interim dean of Learning Resources.

Meghan spoke about how we are making a difference with our students including Guided Pathways and intrusive academic advising which were implemented this semester.

Meghan discussed the need to create an increasing diverse community with a more equitable environment and the need to engage new employees when they come to our college.

Meghan offered her observations of the Governor's State of the State, noting that the Governor mentioned the great success of the RI Promise program, specifically citing the doubling of enrollment and the tripling in our 2-year graduation rates. Meghan spoke briefly about the Governor's plan to expand the Promise program to adult learners.

Meghan then introduced Ulya Aviral, the guest speaker. Ulya gave us a presentation to showcase her filmmaking what focuses on social justice, diversity, and immigration.

Meghan welcomed Kristen Albritton, our new VP for Finance & Strategy.

Workforce Partnerships Update:

In Julian's absence, Meghan offered the update. New partnerships have been developed with a number of companies (EB, CVS, Lifespan, RI Marine Trades Association, Amgen, Pfizer, AAA, and others).

Last week, Davis Jenkins, a senior research scholar at the Community College Research Center and a leading expert on improving educational and employment outcomes for students, particularly students of color and those from low-income families, visited CCRI while in RI as the keynote speaker at the OPC Transfer Summit. He was impressed with the coordination between credit and noncredit paths, the increase in degree completion, the work being done to connect students to experiential learning, and to strengthen the pathway from K-12 to CCRI to 4-year institutions to the workforce.

Academic Affairs Update:

Rosemary reported that the NECHE (formerly NEASC) 5-year report has been submitted. She noted that two departments requested name changes. Foreign Languages & Culture will be World Languages & Culture; Art will be Art, Art History & Design. There have been two mergers: Business with Administrative Office Technology (now Business & Professional Studies) and Physics with Engineering.

Student Affairs Update:

Sara reported that Student Affairs is very active as it finalizes spring enrollment. She noted that we might not hit the headcount from last spring, but they are working hard to resolve the different issues.

Sara reported on Promise: our retention numbers are better than Tennessee. She spoke about the first-time/full-time graduation rate; we were at 4% and are now at 6%; we look to triple to 18%. The current Promise program is a 4-year pilot. The proposal in front of the General Assembly will make the program permanent.

Institutional Advancement Update:

Bobby reported that the save-the-date for Raising Opportunities is about to go out. He asked for the Council's engagement in prioritizing what their wish lists might be (they might not be granted, but he wants to build a menu of opportunities for potential funders). He spoke about Fidelity's consideration of an investment in career services work and our five new Foundation trustees.

Information Technology Update:

Peter mentioned the network crash on the second day of the semester and thanked all for persevering through it. IT has welcomed new staff to the Help Desk and is now fully staffed.

Equity and Human Resources Update:

Elizabeth reported that there have been significant technology updates to improve hiring and our onboarding process. She has been engaged in a lot of "people" work – developing and growing our people here and furthering skill sets. PDD will have a different format this year and more will be shared later. A diversity/equality/inclusion subgroup has been formed to focus on advancing equity.

Elizabeth presented a new policy regarding animals on campus (previously distributed). Elizabeth said that the purpose of it is to guide behaviors, as with all policies. There was discussion related to service, law enforcement and military animals. Rosemary spoke about the difference between an emotional support and service animals, noting that an emotional support animal is not for someone with a disability, it is not trained for a specific task. A service dog requires a documented accommodation; these animals are trained specifically for an individual with a disability. In response to a question about allergies, Elizabeth indicated that DSS would make a decision on a case-by-case basis. Rosemary suggested that this be added to the policy and not voted on this today. Steve suggested that we might want to include a timeline to secure an accommodation, such as before the start of a semester. Rosemary suggested tabling the policy so that we can fine tune it. Steve asked Elizabeth if this policy initiated from her office, and stated that he thought it should go through Governance. Elizabeth clarified that not every policy needs to go through Governance and that it had been vetted. Ron C. made a motion to table, seconded by Rajiv. The motion was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting:

March 27, 2019