

## **Council Notes**

**September 27, 2017**

**Prepared by: Deb Zielinski**

**Attendees: Meghan Hughes, Deb Zielinski, Alix Ogden, Rosemary Costigan, Robyn Greene, David Patten, Hilary Jansson, Steve Murray, Leslie Florio, Tracy Karasinski, Ron Cavallaro, Michael Cunningham, Ron Schertz, Bev Wiley, Bob Cipolla, Greg LaPointe, Tom Sabbagh, Sara Enright, and Ruth Sullivan.**

### **Review of Minutes (previously distributed):**

- Meghan asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes dated 07/26/17. There were none. Hilary made a motion to accept, it was seconded by Bev; the minutes were unanimously approved.

### **President's Remarks:**

- Meghan welcomed the Council and opened with the news that two weeks ago, CCRI received the first \$100,000 installment of the largest gift ever from a private donor, \$500,000.
  - It is the Last Mile Scholarship from B. Maneckji. The purpose is to make an impact on our 3-year graduation rate. It requires a student to be halfway through their degree requirements and must be enrolled full time. It is designed to provide a financial incentive to help them be full-time students.
  - This serves a different population than the RI Promise; it is open to anyone. We know that the RI Promise is impacting the 2-year graduation rate. The Last Mile will help us attack the 3-year graduation rate. We are already seeing students taking advantage of B's gift.
  - It is exactly what we need as a college to demonstrate to other funders to really look at the example set by B.
  - Meghan asked if there were questions. Tom asked if this included books. Greg clarified that it gives students \$1,000 to use how they wish – for books, transportation, basic necessities. It is on top of the Pell.
- Meghan announced the next even larger gift -- \$650,000 from the Alan Hassenfeld Family Foundation.
  - It will support RI Promise students and will serve approximately 800 students from the Promise program who are Pell-eligible.
  - The idea is to offer students financial incentives to achieve certain milestones. Upon completion of a milestone, they receive the incentive. It draws from the Detroit Promise program.

### **Enrollment and RI Promise – Sara Enright:**

- Sara commented that she has been pushing enrollment since she arrived at CCRI, noting that for Fall 2015-16, we saw a 7% decline. Then the RI Promise became a reality in August. This fall we are down only 2.3%, attributable to the RIP.
- We are at 1489 today. Student Affairs continues to chase down paperwork. 954 was last year's benchmark, so we have seen enormous growth. All divisions,

including Advising & Counseling, Financial Aid, Bursar, Student Affairs, the deans and department chairs, all came together to make this happen. Now we focus on retention and credit accumulation.

- Sara reported that we are thinking creatively – adding more tutoring (para-professionals) this fall to provide support; we have 4 additional A&C staff; we are working with MDRC, a national evaluation firm that is looking at Promise programs around the country.
- Enrollment is in a good position; now we need to make sure that the students stay here and are successful.
- Leslie commented that the Promise students are a small population. What do we do with everyone else? Sara reiterated the additional staffing in A&C will support our entire student population, and the tutoring also benefits all students. Retention efforts will be broad. Guided Pathways will support all students.

### **Guided Pathways – Rosemary Costigan**

- Rosemary spoke about Rob Johnstone, who will help implement Guided Pathways. It will support a student-centered approach.
- The Gen Ed/GP Task Force met over the summer; they took an assessment test to see how much we really knew about our students and Guided Pathways. There were not great responses regarding our knowledge level. That was expected.
- We have developed a communication plan about what we will do over the next two years.
- Rob Johnstone met with 15 focus groups, and we are awaiting his final report. Once received, we will be sharing it with the Task Force.
- This year is a planning year. We are looking to implement in the Fall of '18.
- We are one school of eight; we are meeting and talking to colleagues across the country.
- Steve asked if the report would be shared beyond the Task Force. Rosemary doesn't see why not.
- Meghan commented that Guided Pathways is part of the backpack of tools that other colleges use to increase graduation rates. It will take time to get programs in place. She thanked Ruth, Shawn, Rosemary, Sara and her team. We will provide regular updates as the work unfolds.
- Rosemary added that this is a 360 – includes intrusive advising, equity gaps, achievement gaps. It looks at the student in the whole picture. It is emerging work that is being done around the country.

### **Town Halls and Warwick Renewal – Dave Patten**

- Dave reported that the college has renewed its focus on safety and security. He encouraged everyone to attend the town halls.
- There will be safety briefings with specific topics relevant to our world here. Active Shooter is the first topic. These briefings are to reach out to everyone should certain threats present themselves, such as drug overdosing, so we know how to handle.
- The Warwick Renewal is ongoing. We are in year 3 of a 6-year plan and a \$25m investment in this campus.

- In the Great Hall, there will be a new College Police desk by the bookstore to be more front and center.
- High-tech AV equipment is being installed in the Great Hall.
- Doors with card readers are being installed.
- New carpet and furnishings for the Great Hall are due in December.
- There will be a groundbreaking for the ramp up to the front door to be ADA compliant (we will need to build new entryway).

#### **Strategic Plan Next Steps – Greg LaPointe**

- Greg reported that we have been working over the summer on the directions and goals of the strategic plan and working with consultants and holding meetings with thought leaders.
- Around October 15 a draft SP will be available to the community, and there will be the ability to provide feedback into early November.
- The goal is to present the SP to the Board for endorsement in December.

#### **Newport County Campus Update – Robyn Greene**

- NCC seems to be holding its own regarding enrollment.
- Campus seems more diverse.
- She has been talking to students about what their “wish list” might be for summer offerings, particularly to determine what they are looking for.
- Robyn said that she, Julian, and Jaime met with SENEDIA. This has gotten us entry into the NWC. The average salary there per employee is in the \$101k range. It is a misnomer that those people are far above us. There is a lower percentage of advanced degrees.
- There is outreach to the adult ed population.
- There have been bridge closures going on over the last couple of months; better than last time. Everyone seems to be arriving to campus on time.
- Cybersecurity and Cisco are ongoing; hope to be up and running for spring.
- Steve commented that Robyn has done a great job at NCC. The campus is vibrant. He spoke about the timing of class cancellations and felt we need to study each campus. We have been doing the cancellations the same way for 25 years, and we need to develop a true way to measure.

#### **President’s Remarks (con’td):**

- Meghan remarked that the majority of our students are adults; this is who we serve. There is very good news on that horizon with new leadership in the Office of Postsecondary Commissioner, Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier, who has extensive experience with this population and who is a true champion. We are going to get there. RIP is not the future of this college. To get to the 70% attainment goal, it is to focus on the 70% with some college and no credential.
- Meghan talked about enrollment and distribution of students – it is about resources. We are in the process of redesigning Institutional Research & Assessment. We will get to the point where reports are not anecdotal.

- Sara noted that Steve is right that it dovetails with Guided Pathways. You need documented educational plans. That will help with planning. Steve added that we need snapshots, day-to-day.
- Ron commented that when we refine multi-measures, we can answer some of the questions faculty are raising about placement issues.

**Liston and Flanagan Campus Updates – Ron Schertz**

- Ron said that the opening went smoothly in the sense that students showed up relatively prepared in both Lincoln and Providence. Orientation had an impact. He thanked Michael C. The students came with their schedules, knew their room numbers. This used to be a big distraction.
- They have asked Cathy Tessier to take a look at how many sections ran, how many were cancelled, etc.
- Ron and Sara talked about assessments and what our students need.
- Ron thanked Dave Snow and College Police. Concerns were dealt with immediately.
- The Writing Center was ready to go.
- The College Crusade has moved in to both campuses.
- We are looking at space issues on both campuses.
- Michael C. reported about student life – there are activities going on at these campuses. He specifically referenced Spanish Heritage Month. He said the lemonade event went over very well. We should do more of it.

**President’s Remarks (con’td):**

- Meghan said that we are trying to be more responsive to what the campuses need. Relative to where we were a year ago, it felt like a challenge in need of a variety of solutions. She feels this is a significant step forward. We have senior leadership from Academic Affairs and Student Services. We now have people who can come up with solutions. Meghan thanked Ron Schertz, Tom Sabbagh, and Hilary Jansson.
  - Hilary mentioned that she is getting to meet a lot of new people and is enjoying being at Flanagan. Many have told her that it matters to them that there is an Academic Affairs presence on that campus.