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JCAP Meeting Minutes 10-6-2010

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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JCAP Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Thomson Board Room, Ballentine Hall

Attendance: Don DeHayes, chair, Nancy Eaton, vice-chair, Jason Pina, Ann Morrissey, Laura Beauvais, Marilyn Barbour, Kat Quina, Peter Larsen, Nasser Zawia, Christopher Anderson, Lori Ciccomascolo, Norbert Mundorf and Jack Szczepanski.

Members absent: Peter Alfonso, Lynn McKinney, Sandy Hicks, David Coates and Vern Wyman.

1. The Minutes from the August 12, 2010 meeting were approved.
2. Reports/Updates from Subcommittees:

NEASC Subcommittee:

Marilyn Barbour reported that the upcoming NEASC visit will be led by Dr. Peter Nicholls, from the University of Connecticut. She indicated that the Provost's Office is in the process of creating the schedule for the visit and are contacting individuals and groups relative to the areas of focus for the visit. She indicated that the subcommittee had looked at the tentative schedule and agreed that some other groups/persons may need to be considered. Laura Beauvais will make suggestions on behalf of the subcommittee. There was discussion regarding the exit visit and who should be part of that meeting. Perhaps it is important to have others beside the President and Provost in order to document and understand team comments. The Provost's Office will check with Dr. Nicholls to determine what the evaluation team's preferences are and the protocol for that particular meeting.

It is also the subcommittee's understanding that the findings of the evaluation team and the Commission's actions will be addressed as part of our 2012 interim report.

NEASC 2012 Interim Report:

1. The University will receive notification one year in advance of the expected reporting date. Lynn McKinney will check to see when the next iteration of the NEASC Standards are expected and whether we will be held to the current 2005 standards or the revised standards for our 2012 report.
2. NEASC provides an orientation for preparing the 5th year review and the subcommittee will determine whether someone from URI should participate in that orientation.
3. Issues identified by NEASC for the 2012 report are:
 - a. Enrollment goals and effectiveness of the financial aid policies.

The subcommittee plans to read the 2007 Self-Study prior to their next meeting in November and will decide how to proceed with preparation. It was recommended that the subcommittee provide quarterly updates to the University community regarding NEASC.

Metrics Subcommittee:

Kat Quina reported the subgroup started its work by looking at eight peer institutions and their strategic plan metrics. They learned that there was quite a bit of overlap in the way institutions measure similar goals. Chris Anderson emphasized the importance of identifying performance metrics that relate to the goals as opposed to measuring the particular implementation of strategies. Discussion ensued regarding the challenges in identifying metrics for which we have data and that are true measures of the outcomes desired (goals). Challenges were also noted with research performance metrics. PIs desire performance metrics related to the support and work stemming from the Research Office itself rather than solely a focus on grants awarded through the efforts of PIs. The committee will continue its work of identifying a preliminary set of proposed key indicators for the Academic Plan goals which will be brought forward to the JCAP.

Task Force Coordination:

Nancy Eaton reported that the subcommittee reviewed the task force report on online learning. The recommendations in this report are important steps towards establishing the centrality of online learning at URI. The Provost's Office has established an Office of Online and Distance Learning and Dr. Kathleen Torrens has agreed to serve as Interim Coordinator. In her role she has been setting up workshops for faculty online teaching and learning. Nancy will send electronic version of the report and solicit feedback from JCAP.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.