JCAP Meeting Minutes 03-17-2011

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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JCAP Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 17, 2011  
3:00- 4:30 PM  
Thompson Board Room, Ballentine Hall

Attendance: Don DeHayes, Chair, Peter Larsen, Vice Chair, Christopher Anderson, Marilyn Barbour, Laura Beauvais, Lori Ciccomascolo, David Coates, Nancy Eaton, Sandy Hicks, Lynn McKinney, Ann Morrissey, Kat Quina, Jack Szczepanski, Vern Wyman, Nasser Zawia

Members Absent: Peter Alfonso, Jason Pina

1. Announcements:

Provost DeHayes has been asked by the Faculty Senate to make a report on JCAP to the full senate at its last meeting of the year, May 12, 2011, which is the first meeting of the new senators. The Provost and Vice Chair, Peter Larsen discussed the preparation and format of the report. Each subcommittee will produce a summary report, describing accomplishments to date. It was suggested that each subcommittee chair (Nancy Eaton for Task Forces, Marilyn Barbour for NEASC, Kat Quina for Metrics) prepare a couple Power Point slides indicating those aspects underway, those under review, and those moving forward.

Minutes of the February 10, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed.

2. Subcommittee reports:

a. NEASC subcommittee: Self Study 2012

On March 3, 2011, President Dooley and Provost DeHayes met with the commissioner regarding the focused evaluation report. The meeting went very well; we should receive a final written report soon.

On March 8, 2011, Laura Beauvais, Lori Ciccomascolo, and Dean Libutti attended a 5th year NEASC Review planning meeting. The URI 5th year review report is due August 2012. These 5 year reviews are more comprehensive than before. They include everything required of the 10 year review except the visit. All eleven standards are to be included: description, appraisal and projections. Data forms are required; one form for each standard. The advice from the meeting was to pull the data first, then produce the narrative. In discussion, it was suggested that teams be comprised from the larger URI community to take responsibility for individual standards; i.e. Linda Acciardo for Public Disclosure, Linda Barrett and Sharon Bell for Financial Resources. Teams should be integrated across division and we should make an effort to introduce new members to the process as an investment in the future. The President’s Team should take an active leadership role in making sure this is taken seriously and that teams
stay on task. Federal agencies are looking at the accreditation process. The process utilized 5 years ago (fall 2007) was good. There was participation from each division. Large group meetings brought everyone together. The data gathering that the institution has been doing under Provost DeHayes should prove useful to this process. Institutional Research is confident that the data are available. It was recommended to use readers for consistency. The reader role can be taken on by chairs of self study. Membership should be determined by May 1, 2011. Data will be pulled twice, at “breakpoints,” when we have firm numbers. The first will occur in early Fall 2011 (October 15 capture). We can solicit help from faculty, retired faculty, staff, and students and offer summer salary if it is available. The final product does not have to be bound as last time.

There was discussion about the need to craft a new mission statement. In the 2007 Self Study, we said we would revisit it but it is time-consuming and we should consider whether the current mission is relevant. We have a well-crafted Academic Vision that drives the Academic Plan. The Academic Plan is the core plan. The President has produced themes, “transformational goals,” that dovetail with the Academic Plan. The Provost, Marilyn Barbour, and Ann Morrissey will pull together documents to address this issue.

b. Metrics Subcommittee

The committee has nearly completed its work on the first 4 goals. They have looked at resources, definitions, and timelines. They have worked with constituent groups, including APRC, that also collect data. The committee is waiting on goal 5, Diversity, because of recent changes at the university.

There is a sticking point with goal 3, Research. Best practices have been reviewed and the question of how to best assess how well the system is working continues to arise. How is the process working from grant inception to acquisition? A satisfaction survey is in development. Efficiency and effectiveness in the research office and grant accounting continue to be issues. The Research office has been sponsoring research related workshops and there could be an effort made to document attendance and effectiveness of these workshops. Assistance in the area of identifying potential sources of funding has been reduced in the Research office. Perhaps the Foundation can assist in this area, performing “spin searches.”

The Research task force report has been posted.

There is a section missing from the Scholarly Productivity metric (goal 3). It appears 99% dollar-focused. Public engagement projects (Humanities) are part of scholarly output.

c. Task Force Subcommittee

The Global Education Task Force report is lengthy and well-written. It includes a draft list of courses with global focus. One recommendation is to
continue the global education task force committee, ad hoc. A second recommendation is to create a global competency or global citizenry requirement. This will impact the UCGE program. Revising UCGE to incorporate global education and multicultural competency will require a conversation with the entire university. There should be a preliminary presentation to the FACSEN to create some conversation on campus and discover where there is buy-in. Task force reports become documents that drive the curriculum when the FACSEN extracts elements from them and identifies them as such. Reports can be used as gentle leverage.

Four task force reports are ready to go online.

3. Progress Toward Implementation:

a. Online Task Force:

72% increase in online courses offered since 2007. Work is ongoing to code courses. Kathleen Torrens has programs coming out (Davis Grant): online teaching fellows, teacher scholars program. An online advisory committee has been proposed: Joint Committee on Online and Distance Learning. This will be presented to the FACSEN on March 31. The faculty wishes to continue the positive momentum.

b. Global Education Task Force:

Provost DeHayes reported that we are entering into a MOU with Ocean University in China. Graduate students will come here. There is a possibility that a group of undergraduates will come in the summer, study English, live on campus, be immersed in American culture, and interact with our flagships students.

President Dooley and Provost DeHayes went to Hanban in China, presented the idea of a Chinese major. This was approved by the Senate, creating Confucius classrooms in high schools. They were invited to seek more funding; the Confucius Institute funds were unfrozen by Hanban.

Two invited scholars are coming to campus under the International Visiting Scholars Program (April). This program builds relationships.

IEP has earned national recognition. URI was cited in the Chronicle among colleges and universities leading in international education.

4. Announcements:

A new Joint Ad hoc Academic Advising steering committee is being formed and will be chaired by Mike Honhart and Jayne Richmond.

Nasser Zawia noted the upcoming Discovery@URI event, to be held April 13, 2011 in the Library. 100 posters will be on display of student and faculty
scholarship and research. This is a scaled-up version of the similar event held in association with President Dooley’s inauguration. There will be a panel discussion with government and industry involvement. We are expecting 500 to attend; there will be student awards for research innovation and scholarly work. It was impressive last year because of the wide array of knowledge.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:43PM.