2012

JCAP Meeting Minutes 04-26-2012

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Joint Committee on Academic Planning (JCAP)
Thursday, April 26, 2012
3:00-4:30 PM
Alumni Center, Board Room

MINUTES

Attendance: Provost Don DeHayes, Chairperson, Peter Larsen, Vice Chairperson, Marilyn Barbour, Laura Beauvais, Kathleen Davis, Michael Honhart, Scott Martin, Ann Morrissey, Norbert Mundorf, Kat Quina

Members Absent: Peter Alfonso, Chris Caisse, Valerie Maier-Speredelozzi, Lynn McKinney, Jason Pina, Jack Szczepanski, Vern Wyman, Nasser Zawia

Guest: David Byrd, Vice Chairperson elect

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM. Minutes of the March 29, 2012 meeting were approved.

2. Announcements

The new faculty cluster hiring initiative is moving forward. The Provost has assembled 4 panels of 5 people (deans, Faculty Senate members, and faculty) to review the 13 proposals that were received. All panels are using the same review criteria and recommendations are due in the Provost’s Office by May 14, 2012. It is hoped that an announcement of the successful proposals will be made within a week of the due date. The Provost expressed his gratitude for the work of the panel members.

3. Advancing Interdisciplinary Activities

An ad hoc subcommittee of JCAP (comprised of individuals outside of JCAP as well) has been assembled to address barriers to successful interdisciplinary collaborations and to propose mechanisms to overcome those barriers. This committee will hold its first meeting in May. The Provost will participate.

4. Updates from Subcommittees

Metrics

a. Associate Dean Quina presented an update on the progress of the metrics subcommittee. Tables summarizing the data were distributed (see agenda). Entries marked ‘TBG’ indicate data to be gathered from APRC reports. The data collection for Goal 5, Ensure an equitable and inclusive
campus community… will not be completed until the new VP for Community, Diversity and Equity is in place and can provide input.

No metrics have been collected for Goal 6, Institutional Effectiveness. Convening a new task force to address Goal 6 is under consideration as is hiring an outside consultant.

Regarding Goal 3, Research and Innovation, a means of assessing the effectiveness of the grant acquisition process is still uncertain. There have been discussions about best practices and whether or not to bring in an outside evaluator. It was suggested that the Council for Research be approached for assistance in evaluating the research piece and developing qualitative (vs. quantitative) measures. Qualitative measures are important indicators of progress in all aspects of the Academic Plan.

Faculty report that there is no method of collecting data on grants that do not come through the Research Office like Fulbright scholarships and offsite grants. As well, there are non-monetary or small monetary awards and other acknowledgements of achievement that are not tracked. A second ledger should be created for these.

b. The Academic Plan webpage through the Provost’s Office website has been updated.
http://www.uri.edu/provost/planning/index.html

Information is presented to highlight progress and new initiatives. The plan for the site is to add new items and remove older ones. There are tabs directing users to college plans, divisional plans, administrative plans, trends, and planning templates. Efforts will be made to distinguish between goals that are underway and those that have been accomplished. Achievements can be linked to the (metrics) data.

5. New Program Approval Process

Senator Barbour presented an update on the Manual language changes to revise the New Program Proposal process. Language has been modified to reflect that there is a form to complete at the pre-proposal level, and that Budget and Financial Planning input is required earlier in the process. In addition, proposing departments/colleges need to consult with the Office of Student Learning Outcomes, Assessment, and Accreditation and must obtain approval from the Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee. A section was created to reflect the need to follow RIBGHE regulations. The role of JCAP in the process is to identify problem areas early on, not to usurp the role of the coordinating committees. Senator Barbour solicited feedback on the revisions from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and JCAP members.

The committee voted to approve the proposed changes to the manual.

Language about “centers” at URI will be revisited in fall 2012.
6. New Business
Paul Whitney of the URI Bookstore would like to develop a textbook ordering policy. In the fall, JCAP will consider whether or not it has a role in creating this policy.

Vice Chairperson Peter Larsen thanked everyone for their work on JCAP during the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39PM.