2011

JCAP Meeting Minutes 09-29-2011

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING (JCAP)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 29, 2011
3:00- 4:30 PM
Alumni Center Board Room

Attendance: Provost Don DeHayes, Chairperson, Peter Larsen, Vice Chairperson, Peter Alfonso, Marilyn Barbour, Laura Beauvais, Michael Honhart, Valerie Maier Speredelozzi, Lynn McKinney, Ann Morrissey, Norbert Mundorf, Kat Quina, Michael Rice, Jack Szczechanski (for Scott Martin), Nasser Zawia,

Members Absent: Chris Caisse, Jason Pina, Vern Wyman

Additional Attendees: Nancy Eaton, Chairperson, Faculty Senate

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.

Provost DeHayes welcomed JCAP members to the first meeting of the 2011-2012 academic year and acknowledged new members: Faculty Senate Executive Committee member Michael Honhart, Senator and UCGE Chairperson Valerie Maier Speredelozzi, and Faculty Senate Executive Committee member Michael Rice.

2. Minutes of the May 26, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed.

3. Announcements:

The UCGE committee is sponsoring a Rubric Construction Day, October 13, 2011, 3-8PM at the UClub. The committee is seeking (faculty member) volunteers from across the colleges to construct learning outcome rubrics for each of the 11 outcomes. In addition, UCGE is considering hosting a forum for students to gather student input.

Senator Barbour reported that the Academic Program Review Committee has distributed its survey to the Provost, vice provosts, deans, chairs, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and JCAP members and is seeking feedback. The APRC is functioning without a chairperson; Vice Provost Beauvais and Senator Barbour will maintain the activities of the committee.

The Provost reported that the FY13 budget was submitted in early September. In mid-August, the institution was informed to assume a 58% increase in employment retirement contributions. A significant increase in tuition has been budgeted.
Faculty Senate chairperson Nancy Eaton reported on the first Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year (Sept. 22). The theme for the year, “culture of community” was announced and those in attendance were invited to participate in a forum discussion of the sense of community at the institution. There was good participation. A suggestion was made to consider allowing faculty other than tenure track (other “tiers” of faculty) to participate in senate business. Lecturers, clinical, and research faculty are excluded from this form of shared governance. The eligibility of these positions to serve on the senate should be examined. The University Manual may not be a good guide in determining the eligibility of non-continuing faculty to serve in the senate. Chapters 4 & 7 (dealing with faculty) are out of date. The information dates back to the 1960’s.

4. Reports/Updates from Subcommittees

   a. Metrics Subcommittee
   Subcommittee chair Kat Quina distributed spreadsheets of data collected in fulfillment of Goals 1 through 5. Some data have not yet been acquired (N/A) because some reports are not done every year. The committee reduced the number of metrics. The data are interesting and there appear to be some trends but it would be unwise to draw too much from the numbers. The metrics for Goal 3, Promote existing and new interdisciplinary endeavors in faculty and student research, scholarship, and creative work that address major societal challenges and opportunities, are still being developed. The metrics for Goal 5, Ensure an equitable and inclusive campus community by increasing consciousness and understanding about privilege, bias, multiculturalism and diversity, need to be strengthened. To focus on the key issues, the CPRC trans-theoretical approach to change might be considered.

Goal 6, Improving institutional effectiveness, academic quality, accountability, and performance, has not yet been well-defined. The role of the committee needs to be re-examined. The goal is not to obtain data.

The Provost commented that there is a new committee of the RI Board of Governors for Higher Education: Quality, Continuous Improvement, and Innovation Committee, chaired by board member Amy Beretta. This committee is very metrics-oriented and has stressed that metrics will become increasingly important. The committee solicited a report from the Office of the Provost, Ideas about Metrics to Monitor Educational Quality and Student Success. The report answers the charge of suggesting 10 measures of academic quality and success.

The Provost has introduced some new initiatives tied to the Academic Plan. An RFP has been distributed, drawing funds from the Multiculturalism and Diversity Enhancement Fund, for proposals to build multicultural competency and research on how to measure this.
b. Task Force subcommittee
The ad hoc committee to continue to promote globalization at URI, established from the task force on global education, worked over the summer to re-examine the goal of increased recruitment of international students and the possibility of developing a Global Education major. The committee continues to recommend the following to advance the goal: use of agents and alumni networks to identify potential applicants, URI faculty travel abroad, ACE, etc. In addition, retention of international students could be enhanced by the development of an international village, peer mentors, and an improved advising structure.

The Hanover Research Group has compared URI with other top public schools relative to our global, business, and other programs. URI needs more leadership in order to develop a global studies major. Developing a minor should be the first step. A steering committee should be put into place to develop models while we await funding to hire permanent leadership.

The difficulty of organizing an effort around Goal 6 was discussed. The option of bringing in an outside consultant was discussed. A suggestion was made to convene a new task force to articulate and identify the problems. The task force might include users not just managers (upper level administrators).

c. NEASC subcommittee
The “5 Year Report” Committee (Vice Provost Beauvais, Senator Barbour, and Ann Morrissey) is working to address the 11 standards by spring 2012. The Academic Program report is due August 15, 2012. NEASC will be expecting progress.

5. Progress Toward Implementation

Gary Boden reports that the 6-year graduation rate increased 7% over the past 3-4 years. Inside Higher Education reports that there is a national decline. The rate at URI was 62.5% a year ago and was greater than 63% at the end of August (2011). This number excludes transfer students (22% of May graduate are transfers). The average 4-year graduation rate at public institutions is 55%; at private institutions, 65%.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38PM.