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University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "Joint Committee on Academic Planning Minutes December 18, 2014" (2014). *Faculty Senate Committee Reports and Appendices*. Paper 270.
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**Joint Committee on Academic Planning (JCAP)
Thursday, December 18, 2014**

3:00 – 4:30 PM, President’s Conference Room, Green Hall

Minutes

Attendance: Provost Don DeHayes, *Chairperson*, Joëlle Rollo Koster, *Vice Chairperson*, Marilyn Barbour, Laura Beauvais, Susan Trostle Brand, Michael Cerbo, James Kinnie, Ann Morrissey, Kat Quina, Damon Rarick, Gerald Sonnenfeld, Mary Sullivan, Devon Swanson, Naomi Thompson, Linda Welters and Nasser Zawia.

Members Absent: Mary Jo Gonzales, Joseph Maynard.

Guests: Professors Martins and Hames, College of Nursing

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM. Minutes from the November 13, 2014 meeting were approved.

2. Announcements

- a. The Provost reminded committee members of the 7th Annual Academic Summit planned for Friday, January 16, 2015. The summit will address the progress of the Academic Plan 2010-2015 and develop potential new goals for the Academic Plan 2016-2021. He urged JCAP members, faculty and graduate students, to register for the event.

3. JCAP Pre-proposal: College of Nursing RN to BS Online

Professor Martins and Hames described the online RN (Registered Nurse) to BS degree program. Studies indicate that better patient outcomes are associated with nursing staff who are trained at the baccalaureate level. The Institute of Medicine is advocating for 80% of nurses, nationwide, to be prepared at the baccalaureate level by 2020. Demand by hospitals for registered nurses with the BS degree is increasing. URI offers the RN to BS program in a traditional classroom (face-to-face) format. The fully online program is designed primarily for working nurses who can study on their own schedule. URI has contracted *Academic Partnerships*, a for-profit organization that assists institutions with the conversion of traditional degree programs into an online format, marketing the program, recruiting qualified students, and supporting students with technical and advising assistance. *Academic Partnerships* is compensated by 50% of the tuition fees for their marketing, outreach, retention, and other student services.

URI will control the admissions and program content. It is expected that the program will start with 100-200 students in its first year and grow to 500 by the 5th year.

Professor Martins and Hames and Dean Sullivan answered questions.

JCAP members conferred as a group and urged the College of Nursing to move the proposal forward for further development. The committee recommended the following:

- Obtain commitments from colleges and departments that would be required to develop and teach the online versions of the general education courses necessary to this degree.
- Develop a means of fulfilling the Grand Challenge general education requirement.
- Establish a maximum credit load for students. Determine applicability of financial aid to the online program.
- Determine how the practicums (service in the community) will be established and assessed.
- Establish a means of ensuring that the institution will maintain control of admissions, curriculum, course content, faculty hiring.
- Consider the implications of Intellectual Property rights of the curriculum and the course content.
- Establish terms (agreements) and structures for faculty who would teach both online and face-to-face courses in the RN to BS programs. Determine faculty compensation rates and mechanisms for payment for overload.

4. Ongoing Business

Ms. Morrissey described the format and agenda of the 7th Annual Academic Summit, noting the guest plenary speaker, Dr. Kathy Williams, from San Diego State University, breakout sessions, and facilitated conversations in the afternoon.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.