Joint Committee on Academic Planning Minutes March 8, 2018

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Joint Committee on Academic Planning  
March 8, 2018  
MINUTES

Members Present:, Laura Beauvais, Nancy Eaton, Mayrai Gindy, Dan Graney, Oleg Kazakov, Hillary Leonard, Leslie Mahler, Michael Rice, Peter Snyder, Nasser Zawia
Guest: Mark Robbins

Call to Order
Co-chair Hillary Leonard called the meeting to order at 3:05pm.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes from the meeting held 2/8/18 were approved.

Hillary Leonard introduced Peter Snyder, joining JCAP for the first time in his new role as Vice President for Research and Development. She briefly reviewed the role of the committee to provide feedback and guidance on pre-proposals for new academic programs.

It was noted that the last JCAP meeting for this academic year is scheduled for April 12th – an additional meeting may be added in May, if there are program pre-proposals that need to be heard.

One of the topics for the April 12th meeting agenda will be a discussion of specifically how JCAP provides feedback on the program preproposals.

Pre-proposal for new program offering: Accelerated Bachelors-to Master’s Degree in Mental and Behavioral Health Counseling
Professor Mark Robbins, Chair of the Department of Psychology, joined the meeting and described the proposed degree. He said that for the last couple of years it has become increasingly clear that we need to increase the workforce available to staff our community partners in mental health delivery. We want to create a master’s program that is not thesis oriented and that addresses community needs. An accelerated bachelors to master’s program would help fill the need. We have been working with the psychology team, Lindsey Anderson etc., getting into the details, and we feel that it may not require additional resources. This is not a quick fix, but would provide hirable and mentorable graduate students; additionally, the committee has included the Registrar in the planning discussions, to be sure the degree can be implemented. Discussion and questions from the committee followed.

After discussion, Mike Rice moved, and the committee voted unanimously (one abstention) that the degree planning move forward, with the following important feedback:
• Create the master’s degree – an MA in counseling in the Department of Psychology; and then develop the accelerated degree and bring them back to JCAP at the same time.
• Address accreditation issues.
• Include consideration of resources that may be needed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm. The next JCAP meeting will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2018, 3:00pm

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