

# *Narragansett - URI Coalition Steering Committee*

**Tuesday – January 9, 2007**

**4:00PM**

**Narragansett Town Hall**

Members present:, Kim Churas, Nancy Devaney, Tom Dougan, Paul Haas, Jim Hurton, Ben Matone (for Ryan Mitchell), Chief J. David Smith, Carol Stuart, George Tracy, Doug Wardwell, Leslie Williams, Coalition Coordinator, Paula Santos

Absent: Jeffery Ceasrine, Krista Garret, Toni O'Neil

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ▪ **Review/Approval of minutes:**

12-05-06 Steering Committee meeting

12-12-06 Coalition meeting

Paul Haas entered motions to approve each set of minutes. Seconded by Nancy Devaney. Both approved unanimously.

Everyone present was given copies of February, March, April and May 06 Coalition minutes. All members will receive copies by e-mail. Chairman Dougan asked that members review the minutes and be prepared to discuss/approve at the next meeting.

### ▪ **Town Council meeting with President Carothers and URI representatives**

All SC members present who had attended the session agreed that the seating arrangement was not audience-friendly and the sound system was horrible. The Chief reminded everyone that this was a meeting between the Town Council and the university. However, all agreed that if the public is going to be allowed to be present at these working sessions, then accommodations should be made so they can at least hear the conversation.

Paul Haas stated that in his opinion there were two take aways:

1. Off-campus student addresses

2. Town is responsible for its areas of jurisdiction and the university is responsible for its areas.

...Carol Stuart added that she was pleased that questions which were submitted to the Council members were asked of the university; not everyone was necessarily happy with the answers. She felt some questions were dismissed summarily. There was discussion regarding different sources of research.

...Regarding Friday classes, Ben Matone stated, yes, there were many Friday classes and Paula Santos offered that President Carothers strongly supports Friday classes and Saturday classes as well to meet the needs of a diverse university population. As in any large organization, the President needs to work with various constituencies, and the faculty and its union is one of them.

...Tom Dougan added that he thought there was valuable conversation regarding the orange stickers. This led to discussion about what action the SC wanted to see relative to the stickers.

Coordinator Santos suggested that a small ad hoc committee be formed to review the current sticker ordinance, to contact the Town Solicitor to determine his findings and to make recommendations back to the SC. This way, key stakeholders are all talking to each other. Paul Haas offered to speak with Solicitor McSally and George Tracy said he would speak with the Town Manager to ensure the word got to the Town Council that the Coalition was interested in pursuing this. All approved.

### ▪ **Restructuring of Coalition and procedures**

Paul Haas feels that the Coalition should be more empowered and that the structure is too loose. Discussion was held regarding Roberts Rules of Order. Doug Wardwell expressed that Roberts Rules of Order can be too cumbersome and not serving of this committee. George Tracy echoed his concern. There was some confusion about the application of Roberts Rule to the SC and then to the Coalition meetings as a whole. Doug stated the issue is less on the decision making process but more on the action to be taken and the follow-up. Nancy Devaney stated the importance of referring back to previous minutes to see what actions are outstanding and this forms the basis for the new agenda. Coordinator Santos referred to the guidelines where SC members receive the SC minutes within a week of the meeting and then, the week prior to the next meeting, members are asked for

their input into the development of the new agenda. This is the opportunity to review areas of responsibility and report at the upcoming meeting. It was decided that within the Steering Committee, motions would be entered, votes taken and action regarding that motion clarified. Discussion regarding decision making/voting at the full Coalition meeting was deferred.

- **Follow up to suggestion at December 12 Coalition in Dec. regarding neighborhoods' request that all entities who are part of a resolution to a party/problem house that was cited notify the neighbor of what the resolution/consequences were (includes realtor, university and police )**  
Co-Chair Dougan submitted a draft that he had prepared summarizing actions taken by Realtors, Narragansett Police and the University relative to the orange sticker process. Police and university actions are pretty much set in stone and the realtor's are agency dependent although there appears to be some consistency. We cannot accurately state actions taken by private landlords as there is so standard. Dr. Dougan made it clear that the university cannot apply the code of conduct unless there is a fine or penalty or arrest associated with a violation. In addition, the university does not know who the aggrieved or grievant is as that information is not included on the police reports received by the university. The university cannot call these individuals but wants to make it easy for them to access the university. In addition, he informed the members that a student's conduct record is part of the student's educational record as defined by federal law ((Buckley Amendment) and due to confidentiality, cannot be released. This law applies to all colleges and universities. Carol Stuart stated that what residents want to know is exactly what happened to the violators. Any information regarding police or court activities is available to the public as long as the individual is over 18. Chief Smith said "just come to the police department." Dr. Dougan referred to a recent marijuana case involving students. An individual called wanting to know exactly what the university's actions were with the student. He referred her to the policy and gave her an historical perspective but could not talk to her about the specifics of these students. Again this is the law, which, by the way, prohibits parents from getting this information about their children if they are over eighteen. Only the student can provide written approval (signed consent form) to allow the university to release information to select parties.  
...Nancy Devaney asked the Chief about the implications of tenants signing a nuisance statement if they were intoxicated. The Chief stated that this is not valid as a lawful defense.  
...Coordinator Santos asked how the SC would like to have incident data reported to the Coalition this year. No decision.
- **"Course/seminar" required for student violators cited in neighborhoods**  
Paula and Carol will talk about this as they are familiar with programs in other states and will prepare something for the next meeting.
- **06-07 goals**  
Paul presented a list of goals and asked that everyone come to the next meeting with their list.
- **Update on off-campus preparation workshop scheduled for Spring**  
Still in the works. Due to time constraints, deferred to next meeting.
- **January Coalition Meeting**  
Not Discussed

## Old Business

- **Update on Safety Video**  
Carol clarified that the date of the safety video was September 24 and it was on the 6:30pm news hosted by Lea Thompson. Paula will try to locate it.
- **Follow-up/update on Ombudsman initiative**

Paul indicated he had spoken with Dorie Lawson who informed him she would help him design a tri-fold about the Ombuds team that could be distributed throughout neighborhoods.

At the close of the meeting Doug expressed his frustration about the negative press he had received regarding his incident and was angry that an article was posted on the website. (This was brought up at a previous meeting (11/14) and was corrected immediately.)

The meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

The next Steering committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Santos  
Coalition Coordinator