

University of Rhode Island
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council for Research
Monday, May 11, 2009
URI Library, Conference Room A

Attendance:

Members Present: Chairman John King, Cynthia Blanthorne, Karen Markin, Joelle Rollo-Koster, Marcella Thompson, Betty Young.

Members Absent:

VP Peter Alfonso, Harold Bibb, Clinton Chichester, Nikhilesh Dholakia, Ginette Ferszt, Graham Forrester, Sookhyun Kim, Thomas Mather, Jane Miner, Manbir Sodhi, Ted Walls, Raymond Wright, Mark Wood, Jami Halpern, S. Bradley Moran.

Others Present

Matt Bodah, Lynne Dunphy, Dean Dayle Joseph

Chairman John King opened the meeting at 3 pm. Because there was not a quorum, the group decided to serve as a subcommittee to make recommendations for approval by an email vote of the remaining Council membership.

Review of Centers, continued

Rhode Island Center for Nursing Excellence

L. Dunphy stated that the center has an advisory board that includes a cross-section of nursing leaders in the state. It includes representatives from the Visiting Nurse Association, Veterans' Administration, hospital associations, the medical society and Lifespan. The center currently is performing an analysis to determine whether the current nursing curriculum meets the needs of the health industry.

The committee voted 4-0 to approve the center. M. Thompson abstained.

Center for School Improvement and Educational Policy

The committee approved the center, but it recommended that the center's former director, Robert Felner, play no active role in it until his legal issues are resolved.

Research Center in Business and Economics

The center is defunct and was decertified.

Rhode Island Gerontology Education Center

J. King noted that both a center and a Program in Gerontology exist. The center was approved. However, the council will request clarification as to which publications listed in the center application relate to the center and which to the program. J.King noted that the council has no jurisdiction over the academic program.

John Hazen White Center for Ethics and Public Service

The committee noted that the center is more oriented toward service and professional development than toward research. Center fellows, however, do produce research. The committee approved the center, recommending that it start a contribution list of fellows' productivity. J. King also stated that directors of centers and institutes should have to go through the ethics center's programs.

URI Microarchitecture Research Institute

This entity has taken the word "institute" out of its name and is now the Microarchitecture Research Laboratory. No further council action is required.

Center for Wellness Research and Education

Consideration of this center was postponed until September.

Faculty Institute on Writing

The council will request a more detailed application for this entity for consideration in September. There was a question as to whether it was a center or an academic program. The entity can either highlight its research activities or take the word "institute" out of its name.

Center for Human Services

The center was approved.

The group discussed the length of the approval for the centers (7 years) and decided that the current period was too long. The group felt that it would be better to only approve continuing centers and institutes for 3-4 years instead. A recommendation will be made to the Faculty Senate to proceed to change the length of the approval period from seven years to three or four years, for continuing status of centers and institutes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Markin
Director of Research Development