Members in Attendance:
Don DeHayes (Chair), Christina L. Valentino, Linda Barrett, Thorr Bjorn, Faye Boudreaux-Bartels, Wendy Bucci, Lori Ciccomascalo, Steven D'Hondt, Rachel DiCioccio, Lindsey McLennan, Trish Morokoff, Ann Morrissey, Ellen Reynolds, Joelle Rollo-Koster & Kim Washor

Members Absent: Sharon Bell, Tom Dougan, Ken Kermes, John Kirby, Amanda Rode, Gerry Sonnenfeld & Naomi Thompson

See the complete list of member information at the Strategic Budget and Planning Council website at:
http://www.uri.edu/budget/sbpc.html

1. Announcements
   Vice Chair welcomed the continuing and new members and introduced President Dooley.

2. FY2017 Budget Request New Initiatives – President Dooley
   a) Explained the FY2017 budget process and the FY2017-FY2021 Capital budget plan
   b) FY2017 Budget Request submitted to Higher Education Council; following directives, the budget reflects a balance of an annual increase in tuition and fees of; ~$500 to ~$600 - + 4% residents and +2% non-residents and an increase in State Appropriation.
   c) Council received a request to freeze tuition and fees. Governor will recommend her FY2017 budget to the Legislature in January. Governor Raimondo has pledged to support higher education and make it more affordable for Rhode Islanders.
   d) Significant drivers of our costs are fringe benefits, utility costs and other factors as well; Governor agrees our strategic investments will require new funds; Most new initiatives the last six years have been funded by internal reallocation; we have brought forward strategic initiatives by expanding faculty by 55 full-time members from state or tuition increases; modest increments in tuition allow for additional faculty which far outweigh the costs and will increase research and value of education
   e) Strong support from the Governor for a contingency fund as well as use of fund balance for strategic one time only initiatives it is risky not to build a significant reserve of at least 5% for emergencies, e.g. if there was a hurricane, we would need to reimburse students if we had to close A Flu epidemic and bad luck in enrollment management would create the same kind of situation; damage accrued to institution,
   f) Timing of Board vote to increase tuition and fees is problematic since aid letters must be finalized by the end of February each year.
   g) URI’s financial aid budget is funded at a level that allows for strategic allocation of aid; RI Nursing Education Center (RINEC): the state is being asked to support the center which was not the original agreement; RIC has requested full funding for their portion of RINEC which resulted in the Council on Postsecondary Education approving the full
funding for this center from State Appropriation. State plans to fully fund the furnishings and equipment for the new building.

h) Revenue budget – ~$780M, significant increase represents new initiatives and inflation costs. Commitment for budget items carried forward in FY2017 approved previously President reminded the Council that their recommendation concerning reallocation as the first source of funding is the primary strategy and he appreciates the SBPC early recommendation on that process; President mentioned that division heads should be using reallocation as a primary strategy for strategic reinvestments and funding of such investments.

i) FY2017 budget request includes the SBPC recommendations for:
   a. Ten Professional Advisors
   b. Three Web Content Strategists
   c. Security Systems Maintenance Fund
   d. Four Talent Development Advisors
   e. Ten Faculty positions (TT) and four Lecturers (part of 55 faculty imitative over four years)
   f. Business Engagement Center (funding over two years; FY2016 and FY2017)

Total of all new initiatives is ~$3M

J) FY2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) – President Dooley

President Dooley: fine arts and phase II engineering have been well received; the hearing was genuinely complimentary and reflected a number of new people with Governor Raimondo; URI received high marks for CIP, URI provided thorough data, maintenance, how Asset Protection is spent and a 5-year look forward; there will not be a bond referendum in FY2017; hoping to get additional RICAP funding; Butterfield and Fascitelli Fitness and Wellness Center were funded from auxiliary balances and private funds. URI will use HRL fund balances for a portion of the new development of 500 beds for juniors and seniors; there were 1,000 requests for on campus housing that could not be accommodated this year.

3) Chair welcome’s members and explains that SBPC always has the President reporting back to the Council at the first meeting.

Chair thanks SBPC new member, Joelle Rollo-Koster for joining us and welcomes and introduces Lindsay McLennan, Graduate Student Association and Amanda Rode (not present) who represents Student Senate; Chair explains that Amanda had a conflict today and is a thoughtful student and a great asset; SBPC has an excellent committee and the Chair join’s President Dooley in thanking SBPC for their work; Budget orientation offered to new members. They may contact the Linda Barrett, Budget & Financial Planning Office to sign up for the orientation.

President took all of the Council’s priority recommendations; The process by which SBPC is involved in the CIP is still a work in progress; there has been a dramatic improvement by this council’s weigh in on CIP, which needs strategic prioritization and highlights role of council; 1) Recommended policy that came from the council; reallocation is the default way of doing business; President states that this is viable and responsible way and is getting built into the culture of URI. Fund balance – when I came this was negative; contingency fund to protect institution and a fund for one-time investments that support potentially transformational and/or critical new strategic initiatives.

Another excellent recommendation by the Council was to develop policies for the cost of new buildings; the cost of building and annual maintenance is built into CIP.
Reminder, this is an important council with a great balance of people; we always hear how we balance tuition with state appropriation; the stakes are significant for us; there may be policy related items we will discuss before we get into CIP work.

Vice Chair states that we should begin the CIP process earlier.

4) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of all meetings from May 21, 2015 through June 23, 2015 were approved.

5) Chair mentioned: 1) next academic strategic plan is moving along – there were ten (10) task forces including SBPC; draft plan is posted on Provost website and input is being Solicited until October 29th 2) SBPC subcommittee worked on streamlining and Ellen Reynolds was instrumental in this process. Acknowledge Ellen Reynolds – involves HR – faculty senate – etc.

3) In process of forming IT Strategic Governance Council and the new Dean of Libraries is the chair. Twelve (12) faculty and staff have been appointed to the Council. An important role will be to prioritize information technology – the Council does not have a budget but will have to connect to SBPC to make a case for requests. Will need to develop the appropriate process as only division heads present requests to SBPC. History has changed with IT - Administrative systems more efficient – may need consultant to meet with SBPC Council.

6) FY2016 Allocation Update; FY2017 Budget Request & FY2018 Preliminary Budget Request

Highlights – Linda Barrett

a) Budget comprised of unrestricted, restricted and state crime lab. Unrestricted supported by tuition and fees (largest driver of revenue); state appropriation and state allocation for general obligation debt service.

b) FY2016 Allocation is $743.2M; $401.6M unrestricted; $340.5M restricted and $1.1M state crime lab.

c) Annual enrollment projected at 14,546 financial FTE

d) Total applications exceeded 21,000

e) Diversity at URI has increased

f) Challenges for URI include the decreasing high school population in both RI and the Northeast in the years through 2028

h) RI Capital Fund is $16.5M for FY2016 and requested at $23.9M in FY2017.

Discussion during/after presentation:

- in state and out of state mix and also retention which has been going up steadily contribute to the revenue increase
- better financial aid and more engagement of students who see value at being at URI are contributing to the retention
- financial aid – awards are strategic; complex issue – strategic on many different levels; complex model
- would be good to have benchmark data – riding wave? Or doing better?
- shrinking population of HS grads – UCONN budget cuts and big tuition increases not hitting class size
- applications for FALL 15 is a record – Diversity for Fall 15 #s increasing
- yield better students; more successful
- faculty see increase in quality of students
- if you chop the bottom out – can pull whole tone of students down
RINEC - $1.9M and annually $3.1M – prorated for the months of occupancy in FY2017; administrative – Coordinators – director of operations other positions – work in process, numbers may change; $360K for parking spaces? This is a placeholder right now – 200 spaces are right next to building Brown URI & RIC will share cost. Consultant in Pennsylvania worked on a center in that area – provided individuals working on this project with recommendations for operational positions and other expenses – went with consultant’s recommendation; Ten year lease with options at several points to purchase by Brown University. RIC has a different situation with RIPTA as buses will run from RIC to RINEC.

Meeting adjourned at 3:32pm

Next meeting Nov 20, 2015 at 2pm.
Minutes by Linda Barrett and Lisa Fiorio
Budget & Financial Planning Office