Members in Attendance:
Don DeHayes (Chair), Linda Barrett, Samuel Adams, David Bergeron, Thorr Bjorn, Faye Boudreaux-Bartels, Kathy Collins, Kathryn Jervis, Lindsay McLennan, Ann Morrissey, Adam Quinlan, W. Michael Sullivan, Naomi Thompson, Barbara Wolfe

Members Absent: Cody Anderson, Barbara Costello, Cheryl Hinkson, John Kirby, Trish Morokoff, Ellen Reynolds, Joelle Rollo-Koster, Gerry Sonnenfeld, Kim Stack

Guests: Jayne Pelletier, Vernon Wyman

1. Announcements
   - Welcome to Continuing and New Members
   - Orientation for Members
   - The Council was charged by the President originally to be the Budget and Planning “conscience” of the University and to ensure that budget strategic investments are in the best interest of the institution
   - It is comprised of faculty, administrators, staff, students and an outside community member
   - President Dooley re-enforced that the Council helps the group reach
   - Too few people understood the budget; they needed to have a much better understanding of how priorities were set; and if budget reductions were made, reduction principles were needed; it is in our purview to recommend reductions; to continue to operate the University in a way that they focus on strategic investment recommendations; make sure the community is informed and to communicate what is going on in the Council; on the whole, the Council recommendations have been included in the budget; this Council has as much weight as the Senior Leadership team; President Dooley appreciates the Council’s time and efforts; the Council has been productive and a positive factor for the University
   - Welcomed to Kathy Collins, new Vice President of Student Affairs
   - Chair reminded that the Council should also weigh in on the CIP and what is in the best strategic interest of the University; the Council’s process for that review is still evolving in order to improve it
   - Council reviews their processes at end of each year
   - Kim Stack will head a group to revamp the Benefits Rubric
   - We will forward the charge to all of the Council Members (is on SBPC website)

2. FY2018 Budget Request New Initiatives
   - Outcome of SBPC recommendations to the President – President Dooley
President Dooley explains that this is his only appearance at the Council meetings; the President does not come before the Council for his strategic requests; the Council does a good job at balancing the requests and identifying the ones that are in the best interest of the University.

We have built a contingency that we estimate at $19M; it is not near where we should be; the state provides ~20% of our operating budget; URI needs a robust general reserve and has now been built up over the years; six years ago it was zero; second is to make one time investments; have used the funds to enhance the student experience, for example, the Gateway Welcome Center, this project is not borrowing or charging students a fee, however, it is being funded from available balances designated for strategic investments.

In this fiscal year, we are not yet in a position to do this; various versions are being reviewed; without action on any version and giving us mixed messages; we must retain the funds in central reserve and make decisions later in the year once there is budget clarity of the state appropriation, mandates and tuition rates.

Capital Improvement Plan – our annual request relates to all areas except auxiliaries.

President asked Vern to share the COPS savings with the Council.

One project, the Fine Arts building is a multi-year RICAP request because it was not slated to go to a bond referendum; we would have had to wait until 2018, if approved.

The State saves $35-$38M in interest payments if not GO.

COPS – the energy savings is $17.2M since 2009; we have paid debt service of $16.7M.

Refinancing of debt; URI will save $20M over 20 years; the building fee has been reduced for FY2018.

Mike asked about the $2.1M for White Hall; Joint Classroom Steering Committee estimated $1M to renovate the auditorium; is that part of the $2.1M? Chafee 275 similar estimate; project partially funded, funds had to go to waterproofing, redirecting drainage; water system; asking state to restore the money they cut from the project; What is the mechanism of identifying larger allocations of funds for classrooms? Almost $1M available one time only for technology for classrooms; About five years ago moved 62 classrooms to state of art; set up fund of $600K to upgrade and replace technology and for furnishings, etc. (Provost and Business Services)

Chair: Reminded the Council that when the President arrived the fund balance was a negative $10M; The policy for contingency and strategic investment fund was recommended by this Council; the Council moved the Gateway Welcome Center to an earlier year.

One of the Council’s principles/foundational tenets is that the default for new requests is always reallocation.
3. Approval of Minutes (Copy Attached)
   ➢ Approved

4. FY2017 Allocation Update; FY2018 Budget Request & FY2019 Preliminary Budget Request Highlights – Linda Barrett
   ➢ UConn made a commitment and acquired the funds; commitment to diversity and graduation; the UConn Storrs campus received the funds and showed the success;
   ➢ UConn has also had capital infusion
   ➢ Student debt is rooted in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Rutgers
   ➢ URI has never received the request for State Appropriation that was aligned with the tuition freeze
   ➢ Public service – URI is much lower than peers
   ➢ We are a successful institution for our students
   ➢ What are our dorms/residence halls like vs. UConn and UMass?
   ➢ URI continues to renovate our halls; thanks to academic standing across the country and to all the faculty; although we do have triples, they are challenging relative to PR;
   ➢ UMass is more comparable to us; UConn has newer residence halls
   ➢ Occupancy management plan: Where are they living and how do we manage their housing years here?
   ➢ Enrollment is at an all-time high; record breaking because of retention; retention provides funding; e.g. for new faculty
   ➢ Kim Stack will head the committee to revisit the Benefits Document and would like three or four more Council members on the committee

5. Discussion of Council’s Focus 2016-2017

   Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm
   Minutes by Linda Barrett and Lisa Fiorio Budget & Financial Planning Office