

2018

## Faculty Senate Minutes January 25, 2018

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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## UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE

### Faculty Senate Meeting

Richard E. Beaupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences, Room 105

January 25, 2018

Minutes, Meeting #5

1. The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:02 p.m. in Room 105 of the Richard E. Beaupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences, Chairperson Conley presiding. The call to order was followed by an invitation to accompany the Chair in singing "Music Alone Shall Live" in a three-part round:

All things shall perish from under the sky,  
Music alone shall live  
Music alone shall live  
Music alone shall live, never to die.

All members were present except Senators Anderson, Ashley, Barrus, Betensky, Djurdjevic, Gordon, Harris, Mahler, Pearson-Merkowitz, Rosenbaum, Thiem, Thompson, and Vocino; *ex officio* members Vice Presidents Collins and Rider; Deans Bonn, Corliss, Liguori, Rolle, Wolfe, and Wright. Associate Dean Chen represented Dean Ebrahimpour, Associate Dean Veeger represented Dean Kirby, and Associate Dean Eaton represented Dean Riley.

2. Chairperson Conley announced that the minutes of Faculty Senate meeting #4, December 7, 2017, 2017 had been posted with the agenda. He asked if there were any additions, corrections to or questions about the minutes. There were none. Chairperson Conley said that, seeing that there were no corrections, he considered the minutes approved.

### 3. REPORT OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### A. Announcements

1. Chairperson Conley applauded those colleges (units) with 100% attendance by their respective senators at Senate meetings: Education and Professional Studies, Library, and Nursing. He added that each of these units was represented by one senator.

2. Chairperson Conley announced that a search committee had been formed to fill the recently vacated position of Chief Information Officer.
3. Chairperson Conley thanked Dean Wolfe from the College of Nursing for sponsoring the reception that would follow the meeting. He encouraged Senate members to stay after the meeting.
4. Chairperson Conley asked that individuals who wished to speak wait to be recognized by the chair and also identify themselves and their department before speaking.

**B. Activities of the Executive Committee**

Vice Chairperson Leonard announced that the Minutes of Executive Committee meetings #16, #17, and #18 were available on the Faculty Senate website. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

**C. Recommendations of the Executive Committee**

Vice Chairperson Leonard announced that, at the February 22 Faculty Senate meeting, the Senate would elect the next Vice Chair - Chair Elect, a two-year leadership position. She explained that the individual would remain a full member of the Faculty Senate even if the two-year position exceeded the individual's three-year term limit as a Senator. She said that any Senator whose term extended at least through Spring 2019 would be eligible to run for this position. The Vice Chair moved approval of the membership of the Nominating Committee for the 2018-19 Faculty Senate: Senators Conley, Mahler, and Rice. The motion was approved. Vice Chairperson Leonard encouraged self-nominations for the position.

Senator Nassersharif referred to the Guidelines for Chair and Vice Chair Workload Release & Support that were linked on the agenda. He said that the amount of financial support to Senate Executive Committee members has remained the same for a long time. He moved that the Senate direct the Executive Committee to engage in a discussion with the administration to increase Executive Committee stipends to reflect the hard work required of the positions. The motion was approved.

**4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President announced that the institution planned to undertake a review of all programs within the Office of Community, Equity and Diversity commencing this spring and to be completed by September 2018. He said that the review process would include a self-study and an external review by a team that would visit during the summer and produce a final report. The Senior Leadership Team will make recommendations based on its evaluation of results. The President informed those assembled that campus-wide forums were planned, starting in February, to allow discussion of the results of the 2017 NEASC accreditation review. The

President said that the meeting agenda accurately reflected the status of the legislation forwarded to him after the previous Faculty Senate meeting.

## 5. REPORTS OF STANDING, JOINT, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- A. Professor Gindy presented Report 2016-17-3 from the Academic Calendar and Standards Committee. She presented and moved approval of the 2023-2014 academic calendar. Discussion followed. Senator Derbyshire noted that 2024 would be an election year and expressed the hope that the academic calendar for that year would include no classes on Election Day. Senator Cooper asked about the reference to Columbus Day on the proposed calendar. Senator Gindy said that the Academic Calendar and Standards Committee was scheduled to discuss the Student Senate resolution [passed by the Faculty Senate on December 7, 2017] regarding the elimination of references to Columbus Day on the academic calendar at its next meeting, February 2. The vote on the 2023-2014 academic calendar was called and the motion passed.
- B. Associate Dean Rusnock presented Curricular Report No. 2017-18-5 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate. Ten 400-level courses for graduate credit were presented as informational. She presented and moved approval of two course changes, **BES 532 Advanced Conservation Biology** and **EDC 516 Teaching Bilingual and Dual Language/English as a Secondary Language**, and four new courses, **ELE 549 Computer System Modeling**, **CSF 591 Directed Study in Cyber Security**, **BES 533 Using Multimedia to Communicate Science**, **BES 593 Internship in Science Writing**. The motion passed. The Associate Dean moved approval of two proposed changes to the Master's in Education with a specialization in TESOL/Dual Language Immersion. The motion passed.
- C. Senator Emeritus Sullivan presented the 545th Report of the Curricular Affairs Committee. He reported that the Curricular Affairs Committee had approved one temporary course, **AVS 326X, Equine Management**, and four online courses, **COM 202 Public Speaking**, **BUS 464 Supplier Relationship Management**, **BUS 475 Social Media for Marketing: Analytics and Strategy**, and **EDC 102 Introduction To American Education**. These were presented as informational. Senator Sullivan presented for approval three new courses, **ITL 310 Italian in the Real World: Conversation and Current Events**, **AVS 326 Equine Management** and **BIO/GEO 472 Advanced Evolutionary Biology** and six course changes, **ART 215 Video and Multimedia I**, **ART 316 Video and Multimedia II**, **FLM 205 History of Film II**, **FLM 477 Film Experience in Film Media**, **CVE 205 Introduction to Civil Engineering Tools**, and **OCE 206 Ocean Measurements and Instrumentation**. Senator Gindy said that the title of CVE 205 was intended to be **Basic Surveying**. The correction was noted. Senator Sullivan continued and presented for approval changes to **ITR 301 Field Experience I** and **ITR 302 Field Experience II**. The intent of the proposed prerequisite statements attached to ITR 301 and ITR 302, "May be repeated for a maximum of 24 ITR credits" was questioned. Discussion followed. Alternative phrasing was suggested. A motion was made and seconded to approve all new courses and course changes,

with one typographical correction. The motion passed. Senator Sullivan presented program changes to the BA in Film Media, the BS in Civil Engineering, and the Engineering Entrepreneurship Minor. Senator Nassersharif questioned the proposed substitution of EGR 326, a core course of the Engineering Entrepreneurship Minor, with another “engineering-specific option.” He had recalled the discussion on the matter in the College of Engineering faculty meeting and believed that the substitution had not been approved. Senator Sullivan said that the proposal submitted to the Curricular Affairs Committee by the College of Engineering had indicated otherwise. Senator Sullivan asked for a motion to approve the program changes. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

- D. Professor Wenisch presented the 2017-18 Report #2 of the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee. He explained that the reported changes to several University Manual passages were necessary as a result of Faculty Senate By-Laws amendments concerning the Faculty Senate committee restructuring which the Senate had approved in the previous semester. Most of the changes, he said, concerned committee designations and, as such, were considered editorial since Faculty Senate By-Laws override the Manual. He noted that Part II of the Report proposed the deletion of an institute that no longer existed. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.
- E. Senator Emeritus Sullivan presented a recommendation from the ad hoc committee on admissions, charged with considering a waiver of the foreign language requirement for ESL high school students whose high schools had no foreign language graduation requirement. The recommendation stated:

*Students who have 18 units of college preparatory course work who attend high schools that **do not offer** foreign language may still be considered for admission. The admission committee will consider all aspects of the student's application, with special emphasis on the rigor of the courses selected and academic performance in those courses. Students admitted under these circumstances will be required to take foreign language coursework in their first year at URI.*

Discussion followed. Questions were raised about the appropriate “foreign language coursework” for heritage speakers, once admitted; the means of managing a conditional admittance; and whether or not the proposition violated any state laws. Senator Rice cited Rhode Island General Law § 16-32-10 which assigns authority to the president and a committee of the faculty of the university to award academic degrees, arrange courses of study, and prescribe any qualifications for the admission of students and any rules of study, exercise, discipline, and government as the president and committee may deem proper. Senator Sullivan asked for a motion to adopt the recommendation. The motion was made and seconded. Discussion continued. Senators asked for consideration of a means of satisfying the language requirement for admission through competency testing, as permitted for home-schooled applicants. Senator Sama asked for an end of debate by requesting that the vote be called. The motion to call the question was approved. The motion to adopt the recommendation was approved.

## 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairperson Conley asked if there were any Unfinished Business. There was none.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

Chairperson Conley asked if there were any New Business. Senator Williams moved that the Senate direct the Executive Committee to petition the President to make himself available to answer questions in this academic year. The motion carried.

8. Chairperson Conley engaged Senators in a discussion of the impact of the restructuring of the standing committees of the Senate. He indicated that the new membership structure and the decision to make all committee appointments from among sitting senators reflected a shift in Senate responsibilities. Chairperson Conley expressed the hope that these changes would bring about a new culture, one in which the Senate would take more responsibility for itself and make service more meaningful. He suggested that committees might consider meeting during the Thursday 3:00 – 5:00 PM time slot since all senators would be available at that time. Discussion followed. Senator Nassersharif expressed concern for the committee member appointment process in the first year of implementation. Chairperson Conley said that all senators would be asked to provide three, ranked preferences for committee appointment at the May 2018 meeting. The Executive Committee would appoint members from among the volunteers in a manner currently employed. Chairperson Conley said that the Executive Committee would be developing training materials for committee chairs. He encouraged senators to share their thoughts on the training materials or other aspects of the transition.
9. Chairperson Conley asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff