

2018

Faculty Senate Minutes February 22, 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

February 22, 2018

Minutes, Meeting #6

1. The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:04 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 "[Lift Every Voice and Sing](#)" by James Weldon Johnson.

All members were present except Senators Audette, Betensky, Bide, Cooper, DiCioccio, Djurdjevic, Harris, Hashemi, Kincaid, Krieger, Pearson-Merkowitz, Robinson, and Rosenbaum; *ex officio* members Vice President Collins; Deans Bonn, Boughida, Ebrahimpour, Kirby, Liguori, Richmond, Wolfe, and Wright. Associate Deans Eaton and Morokoff represented Dean Riley, and Associate Dean Seitsinger represented Dean Rolle.

2. Chairperson Conley announced that the minutes of Faculty Senate meeting #5, January 25, 2018 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 announced that, at today's meeting, the Senate would elect the next Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, a 2-year Executive Committee position. The report from the Nominating Committee had been posted on the agenda.
2. Chairperson Conley announced that, at today's meeting, the President would provide a brief presentation outlining the FY19 budget after which he would take questions.
3. Chairperson Conley announced that, at the September 21 Faculty Senate meeting, the Senate

had approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to examine the Administrator Evaluation process as set forth in the By-Laws and University Manual and to make recommendations for changes by the February 2018 Faculty Senate meeting. He said that the work was not yet complete but called on the chair of the committee, Senator Byrd, to provide an update. Senator Byrd acknowledged the other members of the committee: Senators Harlow, Mahler, and Nassersharif, and Professors Foster and Howard. He said that they were carrying out a thorough review of the process including who should be evaluated, the constituency groups for each administrator, and the format of the report that is produced by each evaluation committee.

4. Chairperson Conley thanked Dean Corliss from the Graduate School of Oceanography for sponsoring the reception that would follow the meeting. He encouraged Senate members to stay after the meeting.
5. 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 #19, #20, and #21 were available on the Faculty Senate website. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

C. Recommendations of the Executive Committee

Chairperson Conley presented amendments to By-Laws sections 4.15, 4.26, 4.46, 6.1, and 6.3. He explained that the purpose of the amendments to the new Senate committee descriptions, as posted, was to bring consistency to the language describing workload adjustment for committee chairs and committee members who serve on one of the full committees and, additionally, an associated subcommittee. The changes, as posted, were moved and seconded. Chairperson Conley said that discussions with the Provost and his team subsequent to the posting of the agenda had yielded a modification. Chairperson Conley asked for a motion to amend the amendments as follows:

sections 4.26 and 4.46 from “The chair of the full committee shall be entitled to have his/her normal duties reduced by one-half...” to “The chair of the full committee shall be entitled to have his/her normal duties reduced by no less than one-third ...”

The motion to amend the amendments was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Senator Nassersharif asked that alternatives to workload reduction be considered. He said that there were circumstances in which faculty could not be released from teaching obligations. He suggested that department chairs and college deans also be part of the agreement about workload reduction. Chairperson Conley indicated that a memorandum of understanding was under consideration between the Senate and the Provost. Senator Barbour asked if the workload adjustment were in conflict with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement.

Chairperson Conley said that he and other members of the Executive Committee had met with the Executive Director of the AAUP and had confirmed that the proposed terms were not in conflict with the union contract. Senator Ohley, a member of the AAUP Executive Committee, said that workload was negotiated between a faculty member and his/her chair. Chairperson Conley called the vote. The motion was approved. He asked if there were discussion on the main motion. Senator Leonard proposed that the titles of sections 4.26 and 4.46 be changed from "Workload reduction" to "Workload adjustment." The motion to amend sections 4.26 and 4.46 as such was made, seconded, and approved. Chairperson Conley asked if there were any additional discussion on the main motion. Concerns were expressed about compliance with the workload adjustments as stipulated and the need for funding to cover course release. Chairperson Conley said that a vote on the proposed amendments would take place at the next meeting.

D. Report of the Nominating Committee

Senator Mahler presented the Nominating Report. She placed in nomination for Vice Chair/Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate for the 2018-2019 academic year the following name: Senator Bahram Nassersharif from the College of Engineering. Senator Mahler asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. There were none. She moved that the Faculty Senate cast the ballots of the Senate for Bahram Nassersharif for Senate Vice Chair/Chair-Elect. The motion passed. Senator Nassersharif was congratulated.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The President indicated that the meeting agenda accurately reflected the status of the legislation forwarded to him after the previous Faculty Senate meeting. The President projected Power Point slides and provided an overview of the FY 2019 budget. He indicated that URI has been directed by the Council on Postsecondary Education to retain the FY18 resident tuition rate for FY19. Non-resident and graduate tuition rates would be increased. URI's state appropriation request for FY19 was \$85.7 M. The Governor has recommended \$77.1 M. The Governor's recommended RI Capital Fund budget also reflected a deficit for URI. The institution's request was \$30.6 M; the Governor has recommended \$9.2 M. The greatest shortfall was indicated in the allocation for the renovation of the Fine Arts Center. URI requested \$13.2; \$1.0 M has been budgeted in the RICAP funds. The President indicated that the Governor's recommendations reflected state revenue collections (as of November 2017) well below the projections. If revenue estimates have improved by May 2018, budget amounts may be adjusted in favor of the University. The President said he would work hard to recover the funds for the Fine Arts Center, to maintain momentum at URI, and to balance the budget while not increasing in-state tuition. The President answered questions about other aspects of the state budget, the role of URI faculty in advocating for the University in the RI General Assembly, and the impact on the campus infrastructure of the level of asset protection funding. He called on Vice President Rider to address questions about the URI travel policy. The President thanked the faculty for helping to make URI increasingly attractive to students.

5. REPORTS OF STANDING, JOINT, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- A. Senator Gindy presented Report 2016-17-4 from the Academic Calendar and Standards Committee. She presented a recommendation and accompanying University Manual language changes regarding the University's policy on the number of times a student could repeat the same course. The recommendation, presented as a seconded motion, was to allow a course in which a grade of "C-" or lower had been received to be repeated once without seeking permission. The course could be repeated more than once only with the permission of the student's academic dean. Discussion followed. The motion was approved
- B. Associate Dean Rusnock presented Curricular Report No. 2017-18-6 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate. Five 400-level courses for graduate credit were presented as informational. Three course changes (to add cross listings with NEU) were presented as informational: **PHY/NEU 550 Introduction to Radiation Physics and Dosimetry; PHY/NEU 565 Radiation detection, instrumentation, and data analysis; and PSY/NEU 601 Physiological Psychology**. She presented and moved approval of **HIS 577 Graduate History Internship** and four Notice of Change proposals: elimination of the comprehensive examinations in the Master's of Library and Information Studies Program, changes to the admissions requirements to the College of Business, changes to the application process to the graduate programs in Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design, and changes to the program requirements in the PhD Program in Civil and Environmental Engineering. The motion was seconded and passed.
- C. Senator Emeritus Sullivan presented the 546th Report of the Curricular Affairs Committee. He reported that the Curricular Affairs Committee had approved one temporary course, **BIO 422X, Biology of Sharks and their Relatives**, presented as informational. Senator Sullivan presented five new courses (**CHM 477 Internship in Chemistry and Forensic Chemistry, CSC 210 Introduction To App Programming, HIS 477 History Internship, PRS 360 Strategic Sport Communication & Media, and STA/DSP 490 Statistics in Practice**), six course change proposals (**ART 361 Modern Art, ART 362 Contemporary Art, MTH 215 Introduction to Linear Algebra, SOC 370 Theories of Crime and Delinquency, SOC 477 Field Experience in Sociology, and MCE / CHE / NUE 474 Nuclear Reactor Thermal-Hydraulics**) and five program proposals (a new BA degree in International Studies and Diplomacy; changes to the requirements of the BA in Chinese; extension of the suspension date of the BS in Sociology; change of the name of the College of Business; and curricular changes to the BS in Geology and Geological Oceanography). He asked for a motion to approve all proposals. The motion was made and seconded. Discussion followed. Senator Sullivan answered questions about the level of support available in the internship courses. The motion was approved. Senator Sullivan presented recommended changes to University Manual section 8.32.10 pertaining to Curricular Affairs Committee oversight of courses offered in unusual time frames. He asked for motion to change "...courses to be taught during unusual time frames..." to "...courses that do not adhere strictly to standard, published academic calendars..." The motion was made, seconded, and approved.
- D. Senator Williams presented General Education Committee Report 2017-18-5 as a seconded motion to approve. He asked if there were any discussion regarding **CHM 353 Undergraduate Research (D1), CHM 354 Undergraduate Research (D1), FLM 206 History of Film III (A4) (C2), MTH 180 Mathematical Tools for Computing (A1) (B3), PHL / EGR 316G Engineering Ethics (A3)**

(C1) (GC), PRS/JOR 441 Public Relations Practices (D1), EEC 432 Environmental & Resource Economics and Policy (D1) (B4), NRS 450G Soil, Land Use, and the Environment (D1) (GC), NRS 452G Soil, Water, and Land Use Investigations (D1) (GC), EGR 120G Coastal Resilience: Adapting to Changing Coastlines (C1) (GC), and ISE / SUS 261G Waste Not, Want Not: Sustainable Lean Production (A1) (B4) (GC). There was none. The motion to approve was passed.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

7. NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Conley called on Mr. Temple, Academic Chair of the Student Senate. Mr. Temple proposed an amendment to the [Article III, 1., of the Constitution of the Faculty Senate](#) to allow a designate of the Student Senate, not specifically the Vice President of the Student Senate, to attend Faculty Senate meetings and participate accordingly in the absence of the President of the Student Senate. Discussion followed. Senator Thiem suggested changing the proposal from “designate of the Student Senate” to “a designee **member** of the Student Senate.” The suggestion was accepted. Chairperson Conley asked for a motion to provisionally approve the amendment and to direct the Executive Committee to conduct a referendum of the General Faculty, per Article VII, 1. of the Constitution of the Faculty Senate, to ratify the amendment. The motion was made, seconded, and approved. Chairperson Conley indicated that a referendum ballot would be distributed to the General Faculty and results would be announced at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate.

8. Chairperson Conley asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff