

2018

Faculty Senate Minutes March 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

March 22, 2018

Minutes, Meeting #7

1. The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:05 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 "[De Colores](#)."

All members were present except Senators Audette, Betensky, Gordon, Harris, Hashemi, Hume, Kincaid, Leonard, Pearson-Merkowitz, Stolt, Thiem, Uchida, and Wang; *ex officio* members President Dooley, Vice Presidents Collins and Rider; Deans Bonn, Larrat, Liguori, Richmond, Rolle, Wolfe, and Wright. Associate Dean Smith represented Dean Corliss and Associate Dean Eaton represented Dean Riley.

2. Chairperson Conley announced that the minutes of Faculty Senate meeting #6, February 22, 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 the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Senate were again this year jointly sponsoring the Sheila Black Grubman Faculty Outstanding Service Award, an honor intended to recognize a member of the URI Faculty who has made important contributions in the area of service. He said that the award solicitation had been distributed electronically but the nomination form could also be found on the Faculty Senate website. The deadline for submitting nominations was April 2.
2. Chairperson Conley called on the Senate Vice Chair-elect and Administrator Evaluation Coordinator, Senator Nassersharif, who provided a brief status report on the five administrator evaluations that were being conducted in the 2017-2018 academic year.

Senator Nassersharif summarized the timetable of procedures which starts with an orientation meeting in October for those being evaluated, the development and distribution of survey questions by the 5-member evaluation committee in December and January, the production of a written report in February and March, and culminates with a verbal report by the supervisor to the administrator's constituents in April. Senator Nassersharif projected a Power Point slide summarizing the survey completion dates and faculty response rates for Deans Wright, Corliss, Larrat, Boughida, and Ebrahimpour. The slide indicated that some committees had additionally solicited feedback from deans' advisory boards.

3. Chairperson Conley announced that, at today's meeting, the Senate would return to the motion to amend the statements in the By-Laws about workload reduction associated with Senate committee reorganization. He said that the deans had been notified of the Senate vacancies in their colleges and had been asked to inform all faculty of the new opportunities and responsibilities associated with Senate service. Chairperson Conley said that there were brochures describing the committees and subcommittees available today for the taking; links to the brochures could also be found through the Faculty Senate website. He said that Senators would be asked to rank their choices of committee preferences by the May 3 Senate meeting.
4. Chairperson Conley thanked Dean Riley from the College of Arts and Sciences for sponsoring the reception that would follow the meeting. He encouraged Senate members to stay after the meeting to socialize.
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

Chairperson Conley announced that the Minutes of Executive Committee meetings #22 and #23 were available on the Faculty Senate website. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

C. Recommendations of the Executive Committee

1. Chairperson Conley presented a proposed schedule of Faculty Senate meetings for the 2018-2019 academic year and recommended that the Senate adopt the dates:

Sept. 13, 2018 - "Senate Camp"
Sept. 20, 2018
Oct. 18, 2018
Nov. 15, 2018
Dec. 6, 2018
Jan. 24, 2019

Feb. 21, 2019
Mar. 21, 2019
Apr. 18, 2019
May 2, 2019

He said that the dates had been checked for potential conflicts with religious holidays and none had been found. He said that ‘Senate Camp’ (on Sept. 13, 2018) was not an official meeting but an opportunity to become acquainted with Senate meeting procedures, parliamentary process, and ask Senators about their expectations. Chairperson Conley asked for a motion. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The Provost reported that the President was attending a meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education and was not able to be present at the Senate meeting. The Provost provided an update on undergraduate admissions. He said that, once again, the number of undergraduate applications received this year, 23,000, had exceeded last year’s total. He said that out-of-state applications were up by 400-500. He reported that both the quality [based on test scores and class rank] and diversity of students has increased dramatically. The Provost reminded faculty that there were three Welcome Days scheduled on Saturdays in April. Faculty would be asked by their chairs and deans to participate in welcoming students and families to campus. The Provost reported that the search for the Vice Provost of Global Initiatives was ongoing. Vice Provost Beauvais was chairing the search committee; 8 strong candidates from among the 84 applicants were scheduled to be interviewed soon. The Provost reported that the search firm *Next Generation* has been contracted to assist with identifying candidates for the position of Chief Information Officer. Vice President Rider was the chair of that search committee. The Provost introduced Dr. Peter Snyder, the institution’s new Vice President for Research and Economic Development and welcomed him to the Senate. The Provost informed Senators that Associate Vice President Naomi Thompson would present information about celebrating Indigenous People’s Day at the next meeting.

3. C. Recommendations of the Executive Committee

- 2.** Chairperson Conley returned to the recommendations of the Executive Committee. He reminded Senators that amendments to By-Laws sections 4.15, 4.26, 4.46, 6.1, and 6.3, intended to bring consistency to the language describing workload adjustment, had been moved, seconded, and discussed at the February 22 Senate meeting. He asked if there were any further discussion on the motion. There was none. He called the vote. The motion was approved.

5. REPORTS OF STANDING, JOINT, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- A.** Senator Gindy presented Report 2016-17-5 from the Academic Calendar and Standards Committee. She said that the report contained four recommendations. She presented the Articulation and Transfer policy, newly revised by the Council on Postsecondary Education, and explained that it would replace the existing policy found in Appendix F of the University Manual. The Committee also proposed multiple changes to Chapter 8 (Regulations for Students) of the University Manual to clarify some admissions and transfer requirements (and to make some editorial corrections). Senator Gindy said that she had received advice to amend the proposed change to **8.12.30** after posting the Report with the agenda. She moved to amend the amendment as follows:

8.12.30 Advanced Placement Program. The University shall award advanced placement credit to an entering freshman student when 1) the student has completed the college level courses at a secondary school participating in the Advanced Placement Program (APP) and has passed with a grade of “3” or better on the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) advanced placement examination, or 2) the student has passed with a “C” or better an advanced placement examination compiled by a department. For Policy on credit by examination, [see sections 8.36.10-13.](#)

The motion to amend the amendment was seconded and approved. Senator Gindy said that the changes to multiple sections of Chapter 8, as amended, and the revised articulation agreement were presented as a seconded motion because membership of the AS&CC included two Senators. She called the vote. The motion to accept these recommendations was approved. Senator Gindy presented the Accelerated Online Program Calendar for academic year 2023-2024 as a seconded motion. The motion was approved. Senator Gindy presented the recommendation to use Tuesday, May 1, 2018, a reading day reserved as a class make-up day, to schedule classes missed as a result of weather-related cancellations as a seconded motion. The Committee recommended using May 1 to schedule Tuesday classes missed on January 30 from 8:00 – 11:00 AM and Wednesday classes missed on March 7 after 4:00 PM. Senator Honhart recommended using May 1 to schedule all Wednesday classes. Senator Martin agreed, indicating that she taught a class that met only on Wednesday. Senator Cornillon recommended using May 1 to schedule all Tuesday classes. The recommendation to use May 1 to schedule all Wednesday classes was moved, seconded, and approved. Senator Gindy returned to the main motion, to use Tuesday, May 1, 2018, a reading day reserved as a class make-up day, to schedule classes missed as a result of weather-related cancellations, and that a Wednesday schedule be followed on that day. She called the vote. The motion passed. Senator Gindy presented an update on the charge to the committee (from the December 7, 2017 Faculty Senate meeting) to consider all contingencies in removing references to Columbus Day from the academic calendar and replacing it with a reference to Indigenous People’s Day. The Committee had examined the legal authority of the institution to change the academic calendar and had requested advice from Mr. Peter Harrington, Assistant Legal Counsel to the University. His input was pending. The Committee had reviewed implications to the administrative staff and union contracts and actions, if any, taken by Rhode Island College and the Community College of Rhode Island on the matter. The Committee had concluded that the academic calendar was under the jurisdiction of the Faculty Senate with approval from the President; however, the administrative holiday was governed by the State and its name could not be altered. The Committee offered three possible options to consider:

Option 1: Maintain two different University calendars, one for administration/staff/contracts and one for students (academic).

Option 2: Retain one University calendar but refer to the holiday as “Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day”. Classes are usually held on Columbus Day with offices closed.

Option 3: Rename the Wednesday before Thanksgiving “Indigenous Peoples’ Day”. Classes are often cancelled on this day with offices open.

Discussion followed. Senator Cooper suggested that a request be made in the RI General Assembly to change the name of the state holiday. Senator Ohley made a motion to change the name of Columbus Day on all calendars and replace it with Indigenous People’s Day. The motion was seconded from the body. Chairperson Conley called the vote. The motion passed.

- B.** Associate Dean Rusnock presented Curricular Report No. 2017-18-7 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate. Five 400-level courses for graduate credit were presented as informational. Five 500-level course changes were presented as informational: **LSC 530 Children’s Materials and Services, LSC 531 Young Adult Materials and Services, AFS 500 Diseases of Aquatic Organisms, AFS 501 Seminar, and AFS 502 Seminar.** Three 500-level course deletions were presented as informational: **AFS 516 Early Life History of Aquatic Resource Animals, AFS 599 Master’s Thesis Research, and NFS 582 Internship in Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy.** Associate Dean Rusnock presented and moved approval of four new courses from the College of Arts and Sciences: **LSC 511 Critical Disability Approaches in LIS, LSC 512 Immigrant & Migrant Information Contexts & Practices, LSC 513 Social Justice in Children’s and Young Adult Literature, and MTH 518 Matrix Analysis and Applications.** The motion was seconded and approved. Associate Dean Rusnock presented and moved approval of two new courses from the College of Engineering: **ELE 598 Non-thesis Master’s Project and MCE 586 Adaptive Control for Robotic Systems.** The motion was seconded and approved. She presented and moved approval of the following program changes: from the College of Business, changes to the Master’s Program in Human Resources and Labor Relations, the Certificate in Labor Relations, and the Certificate in Human Resources; from the College of Engineering, the addition of **ELE 598 Master’s Project** as an alternative to comprehensive exams for the non-thesis Master of Science program in Electrical Engineering; from the Graduate School, changes in the degree requirements for the MS and PhD in Interdisciplinary Neuroscience; and from the College of Health Sciences, changes to the credit and admission requirements in the Dietetic Internship Master of Science program; and a change in the admission requirements for the Masters of Science Couple and Family Therapy Program. The motion was seconded and approved.
- C.** Dean Zawia presented Curricular Report No. 2017-18-8 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate. He asked for a motion to approve the Graduate Certificate in Science Writing and Rhetoric from the department of Natural Resources Science in the College of the Environment and Life Sciences. The motion was made, seconded, and approved. The Dean presented a draft of the description and requirements of 5-year, accelerated bachelor’s to master’s programs (ABM) as informational. He indicated that better procedures were needed to guide both departments in offering and students in completing 5-year programs of which there were several currently offered by the institution and more expected to be developed. Associate Dean Rusnock indicated that, in the absence of uniform procedures across the institution, the Graduate School was not recording all students as they enrolled in the master’s part of the programs. She said that the Graduate Council had incorporated best practices in its design of an admissions process and format of ABM programs; best practices included structuring the accelerated program to allow students to double count credits towards both the bachelor’s and master’s degrees. The

total number of credits that would be allowed to be double counted would be up to one-third of the total credits required in the master's program. The ABM requirements stipulated that the master's be a non-thesis program and that students complete the requirements within 2 years of their enrolling (eligible to enroll upon completion of 90 undergraduate credits). Senators Cooper and Martin responded that their colleges have had interest in developing 5-year accelerated programs. Senator Roberts suggested that the two-year limit was rigid and did not allow a contingency for students who experience delays due to unanticipated serious matters. Senator Gindy said that the College of Engineering offered 5-year accelerated programs and that the plan to streamline the application procedure and improve student coding was welcomed. Senator Gindy said that allowing the double counting of up to one-third of the total credits of the master's program was a change of existing policy and should be submitted to the Faculty Senate for approval. Dean Zawia cited section [4.71.10](#) from the University Manual, indicating that decisions of the Graduate Faculty carried out by the Graduate Council were not subject to approval by the Faculty Senate. Senator Gindy made a motion requiring that any double counting of credits as part of a bachelor's to master's program be considered by and voted on by the Faculty Senate. The motion was seconded by the body. Senator Rice said that both state law and the Constitution of the Faculty Senate give the Faculty Senate legislative governance of both graduate and undergraduate programs. Discussion followed. Chairperson Conley called the vote. The motion was approved. Senator Emeritus Sullivan made a motion that the Senate affirm that, under Rhode Island General Law [§ 16-32-10](#) and consistent with the Constitution of the Faculty Senate, all undergraduate and graduate curricular matters must be approved by the Faculty Senate. The motion was seconded by the body. Dean Zawia said that the description and requirements of the ABM were intended to be published in the Graduate Manual, not the University Catalog and consequently did not require Senate approval. Discussion followed. Chairperson Conley called the vote. The motion was approved.

- D. Senator Emeritus Sullivan presented the 547th Report of the Curricular Affairs Committee. He presented Section I (two temporary courses, two online sections of existing courses, and five course deletions) as informational. Senator Sullivan presented Section II, which required Senate approval. He asked for a motion to approve eight new courses: **AAF 477 Internship in Africana Studies, CSC/DSP 310 Programming for Data Science, CSF / CSC 438 Introduction to Penetration Testing, FLM 220 Topics in Intermediate Film Production, MUS 256 Somatic Education for Musicians, BUS 349 Special Topics in Entrepreneurship & Innovation, BUS 405 End-User Development for Business Analysis, and AFS 215 Fisheries Science.** The motion passed. Senator Sullivan presented six course change proposals: **ARB 325 Topics in Arabic Studies in Translation, CSC 201 Introduction to Computer Programming, AFS 201 Shellfish Aquaculture, PLS 325 Hydroponic & Greenhouse Vegetable Production, AFS 321 World Fishing Methods, and AFS 322 Laboratory for World Fishing Methods.** He asked for a motion to approve the changes. The motion was made, seconded, and approved. Senator Sullivan presented the following program proposals: the creation of five focus areas [options] in the Communication major in the Bachelor of Arts degree program; minor changes to the requirements for the BA and BS in Computer Science; change in the name of the major from Aquaculture and Fishery Technology to Aquaculture and Fisheries Science BS; change the degree name from Aquaculture and Fishery Technology to Aquaculture and Fisheries Science BS; course changes in the Early Childhood Education and Teacher Certification Program in Human Development and Family Studies; and

changes to the progression requirements in the Professional Program part of the Pharmacy Doctorate. He asked for a motion to approve the changes. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

- E. Senator Williams presented General Education Committee Report 2017-18-6 as a seconded motion to approve. He asked if there were any discussion regarding **MTH 105 Elementary Mathematical Code breaking (A1) (B3); SOC / CCJ / PSC 476 Policy Issues In Criminal Justice (D1) (B1); AVS 472 Physiology of Reproduction (D1); MAF 300 Social Studies of Science (C3) (A3); HDF 480, Senior Field Experiences in Community Agencies (D1) (C1); HDF 481, Field Experience Seminar and Reflections (D1) (C1); and HPR 392, Honor's Seminar in Civic Engagement & Soc. and Behavioral Science (C1) (A2)**. There was none. The motion to approve was passed.
- F. Mr. Mark Oliver, Manager of Classroom Media Assistance, presented the annual Report of the Joint Classroom Steering Committee. He summarized AV classroom updates that had been completed during the previous summer (2017) in Ballentine, Chafee, CBLS, and East Auditorium. Furniture updates included benches in the Chafee atrium. In January (2018), Quinn, White, and Kirk Auditoriums were updated with laser projectors, "Air Media," touch screens, and document cameras. Two new classrooms in Keaney were constructed (in-house) in January. Mr. Oliver listed the classrooms with the most persistent technology issues but added that problem tickets had decreased by 20% between 2017 and 2018 in the September to March time frame.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairperson Conley reported the results of the referendum to the General Faculty. He reminded Senators that, at the February 22 meeting, the Senate had provisionally approved a motion to allow any member of the Student Senate so designated, 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. Amending the Constitution of the Faculty Senate, in which is stated the membership of the Faculty Senate, required a 2/3rds majority vote in the affirmative of all votes cast by the General Faculty. A referendum of the General Faculty was conducted from March 1 – 19. Of 151 votes cast, 94% were in favor of the motion. Chairperson Conley reported that the motion passes and the change is approved.

- 8. Chairperson Conley asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff