

2018

# Faculty Senate Minutes April 19, 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

April 19, 2018

Minutes, Meeting #8

1. Immediately following a meeting of the General Faculty – Graduate Faculty, the regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:07 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 University's *Alma Mater*,

“ All Hail to thee Rhode Island  
We pledge our faith anew  
While our heroes bring thee honor  
with our banner of white and blue.  
In truth we owe her much  
for she's shown us the way  
to achieve and be of service to the world.  
So all hail our Alma Mater  
Rhode Island our guide whate'er we do.”

All members were present except Senators Ashley, Gindy, Harris, Kincaid, Krieger, Pearson-Merkowitz, Robinson, Thiem, Thompson, and Wyatt; *ex officio* members Provost DeHayes, Vice Presidents Collins, Rider, and Snyder; Deans Bonn, Boughida, Liguori, Rolle, Wolfe, Wright, and Zawia. Associate Dean Smith represented Dean Corliss, 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 #7, March 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 today was the last Faculty Senate meeting for senators

whose terms expired in 2018. He thanked the following Faculty Senate members:

ARTS AND SCIENCES

Carolyn Betensky, English

Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz, Political Science

Catherine Sama, Languages

Travis Williams, English and General Education Committee Chair

BUSINESS

Betsy Cooper, Management/General Business

ENGINEERING

Leon Thiem, Civil and Environmental Engineering

Jay Wang, Mechanical, Industrial & Systems Engineering

ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES

Michael Rice, Fisheries, Animal & Veterinary Science and FSEC Member

Alison Roberts, Biological Sciences

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF OCEANOGRAPHY

Peter Cornillon, Physical Oceanography

HEALTH SCIENCES

Jerome Adams, Human Development & Family Studies

Lisa Harlow, Psychology

Leslie Mahler, Communicative Disorders and FSEC Member

PHARMACY

Fatemeh Akhlaghi, Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Michael Vocino, Technical Services

2. Chairperson Conley said that, for returning Senators, there would be an organizational meeting of the new Senate on May 3. The Senate would welcome 22 new senators, increasing the size of the body from 52 to 57 Senators as a result of new hires of tenure-track, Senate-eligible faculty. On May 3, the Senate would hold elections to fill two positions on the Executive Committee.
3. Chairperson Conley introduced the newly-elected President of the Student Senate, Ms. Adriana Wilding, an *ex officio* member of the Senate.
4. Chairperson Conley thanked Dean Liguori from the College of Health 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**

Vice Chairperson Leonard announced that the Minutes of Executive Committee meetings #24, #25, #26, and #27 were available on the Faculty Senate website. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

**C. Recommendations of the Executive Committee**

1. Vice Chairperson Leonard explained that the existing Subcommittee on the Assessment of General Education (SAGE) had been working with Director DiCioccio since the implementation of the new general education program to develop a pilot assessment program, review rubrics, and carry out the assessment of courses in 3 student learning outcomes per semester. She said that SAGE had plans to continue its work over the summer to formalize the assessment plan. As a result of the new Senate committee restructuring, the assessment of the general education program became part of the charge of the new Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee. Vice Chairperson Leonard said that, in order not to interrupt the important efforts of SAGE, the Senate Executive Committee recommended that the Faculty Senate approve the formation of an ad hoc committee on the assessment of general education to allow current members of the Subcommittee on the Assessment of General Education (SAGE) to continue their work through 2018. Once the ad hoc committee had completed its work, the responsibilities would transition to the Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee. She asked for a motion on the recommendation. A motion was made, seconded, and approved.
2. Vice Chairperson Leonard recommended that the Faculty Senate approve the formation of an ad hoc committee to develop committee training materials associated with the new standing committees of the Senate and work with the new committee chairs during summer 2018. She asked for a motion on the recommendation. A motion was made, seconded, and approved.
3. Vice Chairperson Leonard reported that, at the April 5 meeting of the General Education Committee, 27 of 31 course proposals had been approved. Four courses had not been approved but the proposers of those courses would be offered an opportunity to revise and resubmit before the end of the semester. The General Education Committee would review revisions online and vote to approve. In order to maximize seat availability in the general education program for the fall, and if revisions were received in time, Vice Chairperson Leonard recommended that the Faculty Senate authorize the Senate Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Senate and be granted the powers of the Senate to approve undergraduate general education courses between April 20 and May 18, 2018. Vice Chairperson Leonard asked for a motion on the recommendation. A motion was made, seconded, and approved.

D. Chairperson Conley provided a review of the new Senate committees and the service opportunities associated with them. He projected [Power Point slides](#) summarizing the committee positions and the workload release associated with membership on the Curriculum and Standards Committee, on the Committee for Research and Creative Activities, and associated with the chairs' positions. Chairperson Conley informed Senators that they would receive an electronic survey through which to make their committee choices. Senator Hashemi asked if the committee meeting times had been determined. Chairperson Conley said that, once members were appointed, committee members would determine the schedules for their committees. He reminded Senators that the Thursday 3-5 PM time slot should be available for all committees because it was the Faculty Senate meeting time.

#### 4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The President provided a brief update on the current legislative session. He said that the institution has continued to advocate for additional funding in the operating budget to close the \$8 million deficit, the difference in URI's original FY19 request and the Governor's FY19 recommendation, and in RICAP (Rhode Island Capital) Funds for renovations to the Fine Arts Center. The March 22, 2018 decision by the Council on Postsecondary Education to increase in-state tuition at URI has reduced the deficit by \$3 million. URI continues to advocate for a bond issue in 2020 for renovations and new facilities at the Narragansett Bay Campus.

#### 5. PRESENTATION

Chairperson Conley introduced Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Naomi Thompson to report on URI's relationship to local native cultures. Vice President Thompson was joined by Director George Gallien from the Multicultural Center. Director Gallien reported that he has met with the [URI Native American] Advisory Council. October 8, 2018 has been designated Indigenous People's Day. He said the day would be celebrated with events to include prayer circles, films, storytelling, a pow-wow, arts and crafts, Native American athletics, and panel discussions.

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

A. Dr. Mosley Austin, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, presented [Curricular Report No. 2017-18-9 from the Graduate Council](#) to the Faculty Senate. Eleven 400-level courses for graduate credit were presented as informational. Two 500-level course changes were presented as informational: **LSC 520 School Library Media Services** and **LSC 596 School Library Media Seminar**. Assistant Dean Mosley Austin presented four new courses: **LSC 598 Supervised Internship/Practicum: School Library Media**, **MTH 581 Optimization Methods**, **MAF 500 Social Studies of Science**, **NFS 550/650 Epidemiology of Nutrition and Chronic Disease**. She asked for a motion to approve them. The motion was made, seconded, and the courses were approved. One temporary course was reported as approved by the Council (not requiring Senate approval), **EVS 510x Field Practicum Coastal Resilience and Management**. Assistant Dean Mosley Austin presented seven Notice of Change proposals: change in degree requirements to the Masters of Library and Information Studies; change in degree requirements to the Professional Science Master's Degree in Cyber Security; change in title and course requirements in the Graduate

Certificate in Digital Forensics and Incident Response; creation of a consolidated BS/MS in Applied Mathematics; discontinuation of the comprehensive exam for the non-thesis track in the MA in History and optional GRE for admission, except for the Anthropology/archaeology track, which would still require the GRE; elimination of the Clinical Nurse specialist from the Adult/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner concentration in the MS, post BS-DNP, and MS-DNP; and creation of a consolidated BS/MS in Nutrition. She asked for a motion to approve the changes. The motion was made and seconded. Senator Rice asked why the two proposals to create bachelor's to master's programs (from the departments of Mathematics and Nutrition) were titled "consolidated," noting that there were existing, similar 5-year programs at URI that were known by the terms "accelerated five-year B.S./M.S.," "five-year program," and "fifth-year master's." Assistant Dean Mosley Austin explained that the existing 5-year programs pre-dated the recent review of such programs by the Graduate Council and that "consolidated" was the preferred language. Senator Rice moved to amend Appendix D (Consolidated BS/MS in Applied Mathematics) and Appendix G (Consolidated BS/MS in Nutrition) of Curricular Report No. 2017-18-9 by replacing the occurrences of the term "consolidated" with the term "accelerated" so that all these kinds of programs at URI were referred to in the same way. Senator Derbyshire seconded the motion. Associate Dean Eaton objected to the name change because, she said, "accelerated" implied a double-counting of credits and it was not the intention of the Mathematics Department to allow double-counting in its proposed program. Senator Derbyshire said that the permissibility of double-counting of credits in merged bachelor's to master's programs had not been approved by the Senate. She advocated for maintaining the use of the term "accelerated" and its accepted definition until such time as a change was proposed to and approved by the Senate. Senator Martin advocated for maintaining the current terminology and use of "accelerated." Associate Dean Eaton said that the Graduate School had approved a definition of "ABM" [Accelerated Bachelor's and Master's degrees] for inclusion in the Graduate Manual. Assistant Dean Mosley Austin said that the double-counting was reserved for the "ABM" programs and indicated, also, that "ABM" programs did not permit master's theses. Senator Nassersharif said that, in the College of Engineering, there were [six] accelerated five-year B.S./M.S. degree programs, there was no double-counting permitted, they were thesis programs, and they had been approved by the Graduate Council. He said that, consequently, it was not true that the term "accelerated" was defined as to allow double-counting and to preclude a thesis. Chairperson Conley moved to divide the question. There were no objections. He restated Senator Rice's motion. He asked for the vote by a show of hands. The motion to amend Appendix D and Appendix G was approved by a vote of 17 yeas and 13 nays. The vote to approve the remaining Notice of Change proposals was called. The motion passed.

Dr. Mosley Austin presented [Curricular Report No. 2017-18-10 from the Graduate Council](#) to the Faculty Senate, a recommendation to create an Applied Mathematics Track in the M.S. in Mathematics. She asked for a motion to approve the recommendation. A motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Dr. Mosley Austin presented [Curricular Report No. 2017-18-11 from the Graduate Council](#) to the Faculty Senate, a proposal to create a Graduate Certificate in Aquaculture and Fisheries. She asked for a motion to approve the proposal. A motion was made, seconded, and approved.

- B. Senator Emeritus Sullivan presented the [548th Report of the Curricular Affairs Committee](#). He said there were three sections and asked if there were any questions about the informational matters (Section I) or the new courses or course changes (Section II). There were none. He asked for a motion to approve the courses. A motion was made, seconded, and the course proposals were approved. Senator Sullivan presented the third section, program proposals from six colleges, including five new programs. He asked if there were any questions. Senator Williams asked if the Creation of a Minor in Sports Media and Communication had been presented with the full consent of the faculty of that department. Professor Torrens, a member of the Department of Communications Studies, confirmed that the program had been submitted with the consent of the faculty. Senator Sullivan asked for a motion to approve the program proposals. A motion was made, seconded, and the proposals were approved.
- C. Senator Williams presented [General Education Committee Report 2017-18-7](#) and said that the report arrived as a seconded motion to approve. He asked if there were any questions regarding the courses as listed by individual colleges. There were none. He asked for votes, separately, by college. The motions to approve the courses from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business, the College of Education and Professional Studies, the College of Engineering, the College of the Environment and Life Sciences, the College of Pharmacy, and the Library were approved. Senator Williams presented two Grand Challenge, open-ended topics shells:

**GCH 101G Interdisciplinary Topics in Civic Knowledge and Responsibilities** (3-4 cr.) Study of important contemporary interdisciplinary topics with substantial relevance to civic knowledge and responsibilities, incorporating substantial attention to ethics. (C1) (GC)

**GCH 102G Interdisciplinary Topics in Diversity and Inclusion** (3-4 cr.) Study of important contemporary interdisciplinary topics with substantial relevance to diversity and inclusion, incorporating substantial attention to ethics. (C3) (GC)

He explained that the topics courses for these shells would be submitted as developed with either the C1 (Civic Knowledge and Responsibilities) or C3 (Diversity and Inclusion) outcome paired with an appropriate partial outcome and the Grand Challenge overlay. Proposals, that would require the Approval for Open-ended Course Topic form, syllabus, General Education Course Proposal Form (Supplement), and outcome templates, would be reviewed by the Curriculum and Standards Committee. He said that these interdisciplinary topics shells would facilitate the availability of seats in the C1 and C3 outcomes. He asked for a vote to approve GCH 101G and GCH 102G. The motion passed.

Chairperson Conley moved approval of an expression of thanks to all faculty who had served on Senate committees under the soon-to-be-old structure. The motion passed.

- D. Professor Slitt presented the Report of the Council for Research. She summarized the activities of the past year and during the transition from the outgoing Vice President, Dr. Gerald Sonnenfeld, to the new Vice President, Dr. Peter Snyder, who joined the Office of Research and Economic Development in February 2018. Provost DeHayes had acted in lieu of the Vice

President during the interim period. Council members had worked with the Provost to identify roadblocks and hindrances to performing research at URI. The Council had generated a list of research-related priorities and ideas that were shared with the Provost during the interim period. The Council has recommended to Provost DeHayes that the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology be given temporary authorization as a center. A total of 31 Proposal Development and 9 Faculty Career Enhancement proposals have been evaluated. The Council has tentatively recommended 5 Proposal Development and 4 Faculty Career Enhancement proposals for funding (total budget from the Office of the Vice President is \$117,000). The Council evaluated 22 nominations for the Research Excellence Awards. The Council will meet again to approve the awards, to be made at the May 15, 2018 Excellence Recognition Ceremony. The Subcommittee on Distribution of Overhead Funds plans to meet on May 3 and May 18 to review the overhead expenditures. The work of this subcommittee was delayed due to personnel changes in the Controller's Office and the Office of the Vice President. The Subcommittee plans to review and discuss the current distribution and provide a report to the Faculty Senate and the Administration by May 31, 2018.

- E. Professor Torrens and Director Goldsmith presented the Report of the Joint Committee on Online and Distance Learning. Professor Torrens said that the online training for faculty had been redesigned, merging two workshops into one 4-week session. She reported that the Office of Online Education had recently piloted a blended pedagogy initiative to promote best practices in the delivery of blended courses, that the Committee has discussed the use of course shells by departments to standardize structures for online and blended courses to ensure navigational consistency, and that the IDEA (Instructional Development and Effectiveness Assessment) instrument was now available online. The Committee has worked with Media and Technology Services to increase and improve accessibility to all learners enrolled in online courses. Director Goldsmith informed the Senate that the Committee has formed a subcommittee to consider replacing SAKAI, now 10 years old, with a new Learning Management System. She summarized the data associated with the fully online programs at URI and the enrollment in individual online courses. College-aged students (18-22 y.o.) comprise 90% of students enrolled in online courses at URI. Director Goldsmith answered questions.
- F. Senator Barbour presented the Report of the Academic Program Review Committee (APRC). She said that program review had been a targeted area of concern in the 2007 NEASC accreditation report. It had not been a targeted area of concern in the most recent 2017 NEASC review. She reported that the APRC is charged with guiding the process of Academic Program Review, a process that includes data collection at the institutional level (annual) and at the department level (biennial), as well as a unit self-study, intended to be carried out every 6 years. Since 2012, departments have performed 3 biennial data collections (chair surveys). The APRC recently surveyed department and program chairs who had participated in these chair surveys to determine the effectiveness and usability of the process. While data was used by several departments, there was a concern of extra work, difficulty in obtaining accurate data and redundancy of effort. A large majority of chairs asked that departments be allowed to determine their own data collections for purposes of Academic Program Review. As of 2018, the APRC will no longer administer the chair surveys but will provide chairs, program directors, and deans biennial reminders for unit data collection with recommendations for content. This process will



remain in place until alternative data collection processes are initiated by the Provost's Office. The Central Data Report, with its benchmarking data from the Delaware Study will continue to be provided by Institutional Research on an annual basis. The APRC report provided the current review status of 42 departments, programs, or colleges. Senator Williams asked if University College for Student Success was reviewed by means of the APRC process. Senator Barbour said that it was not.

- G. Vice Chairperson Leonard provided an update from the ad hoc Committee on non-credit, digital credentials. She said that the Committee has met during the spring semester, is working to establish guidelines for high quality standards of non credit credentials. The Committee plans to meet over the summer and will make recommendations in the fall.
- H. Professor Harps-Logan introduced the Report of the Athletics Advisory Board. She thanked President Dooley for the opportunity to chair the Board. Athletic Director Bjorn thanked Professor Harps-Logan for her service. He reported that Mr. E.C. Matthews, a 5<sup>th</sup> year senior and member of the Men's basketball team, had prepared the Power Point slides and the Rhode Island Athletics Report Card as part of an independent study. Director Bjorn presented highlights of the attributes of the 457 student-athletes from 2017-18: demographics, percent supported by athletic-related financial aid, academic accomplishments, and academic services available to student-athletes. Director Bjorn reported that a record-setting percentage of student-athletes achieved the dean's list this year: 59.9%. The average GPA in fall 2017 was 3.11 representing the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive semester average above 3.00. The 6-year student-athlete graduation rate was 64%. He emphasized that student-athletes are free to pursue any major and were currently enrolled in 58 different majors. Director Bjorn acknowledged the support of the athletic advisors from University College. The Director said that when he meets with recruits, he informs them that they will earn an incredible degree at URI while working toward championships. He noted the highlight of the 2017-18 season: Men's Basketball regular season Atlantic 10 Champions, qualifying for the NCAA tournament; defeated their First Round opponents and advanced to the Second Round. He urged the faculty to review the Report Card. He was asked about the percentage of female athletes vs. male athletes receiving scholarships. He reported that the institution was obligated by law to provide a gender-equitable distribution of scholarship support to within 1% of the overall gender-reported enrollment.
- I. The [Report of the Committee on Information Technologies](#), Infrastructure, Computing, Communications, and Networking was posted on the agenda. There was no verbal report.

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

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

- 9. Chairperson Conley asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff