

2017

Faculty Senate Minutes September 21, 2017

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

September 21, 2017

Minutes, Meeting #1

1. Immediately following a meeting of the General Faculty-Graduate Faculty and a presentation by President Dooley on the state of the University, the regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:50 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 *a capella* performance by the Chair of the 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 Betensky, Boving, Cooper, Cornillon, Djurdjevic, Gordon, Kincaid, Krieger, Martin, Pearson-Merkowitz, Rosenbaum, and Uchida; *ex officio* members Vice Presidents Collins and Rider; Deans Bonn, Richmond, and Wright. Associate Dean Smith represented Dean Corliss, Associate Dean Chen represented Dean Ebrahimpour, Associate Dean Veeger represented Dean Kirby, Associate Dean Quilliam represented Dean Liguori, and Associate Dean Seitsinger represented Dean Rolle.

2. Chairperson Conley announced that the minutes of Faculty Senate meeting #9, May 4, 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 asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and the minutes were approved.

3. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. Announcements

1. Chairperson Conley announced that the Faculty Senate had hosted a welcome event on September 14 for new and returning Senate members. He briefly summarized the material that had been presented at that event.
2. Chairperson Conley introduced *ex officio* Senate member, Dr. Jeannette Riley, recently appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and announced that Dr. Anthony Rolle (not present) had been appointed Dean of the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies.
3. Chairperson Conley announced that a reception would follow the meeting. He encouraged all to stay and join in the opportunity to socialize and he thanked Dean Larrat for graciously agreeing to sponsor the reception.
4. Chairperson Conley called on Director Goldsmith who announced that two Open House events had been scheduled in the [Testing Center](#), Chafee 201, in the upcoming week. She encouraged faculty to learn about the free testing service and the new registration system.
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

1. Vice Chairperson Leonard announced that the Minutes of Executive Committee meetings #1, #2, #3, and #4 were available on the Faculty Senate website. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.
2. Vice Chairperson Leonard reported that, last year, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee had started work on a comprehensive restructuring of the standing committees of the Senate to address committee membership and attendance issues, to clarify the role of administrative members, and to improve efficiency. The Senate had approved the formation of an ad hoc committee that had met several times over the summer to advance the project. The Vice Chairperson called on Senate Chairperson Conley to present the results of the work. Chairperson Conley presented [Power Point slides](#) and summarized the goals of committee restructuring. He reviewed the motion passed by the Senate on February 23, 2017 directing the Executive Committee to make recommendations on revising appropriate sections of the University Manual, By-Laws, Constitution such that the Academic Standards and Calendar, Curricular Affairs, and General Education Committees be reformulated into the Curriculum and Standards Committees; and that the Undergraduate Academic Advising, Honors and Visiting Scholars, and Teaching Effectiveness Committees be reformulated into the Teaching, Advising and Assessment Committee; and that the Council for Research, and Library Committees be reformulated into the Research and Creative Activities Committee; and

that the Committee on Information Technology, [CITICCN] and Library Committee be reformulated into the Technology Committee; and that these committees should comply in format and faculty membership to By-Laws section 4.13. He reported that the Executive Committee had recommended the creation of a new committee, Service and Community Life, and that the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee remain unchanged. Chairperson Conley summarized the work of the ad hoc committee over the summer indicating that new committee descriptions had been drafted retaining all existing committee duties, and recommending specific compensation for all committee chairs and committee members with significant responsibilities. The new structures called for six faculty members and two student members. The role of administrators would be to function as valued consultants as needed. Two models for populating the committees had been considered: membership exclusively from among sitting Senators with terms aligned with Senate terms or a university-wide election process possibly open to all full-time faculty. Chairperson Conley outlined the advantages and disadvantages of each model and invited discussion among Senate members. In discussion, a third model of committee population was suggested whereby half of the vacancies would be filled by Senators and half filled by means of a campus-wide election of faculty wishing to be considered for the vacancies. It was suggested that the term of the committee chairs be reduced to one year from the recommended two years. Concern was expressed that smaller colleges would be disadvantaged by the six-member structure. Chairperson Conley indicated that Senators would need to be well-committed to their roles as college representatives. He directed Senate members to a Faculty Senate webpage with links to the recommended new By-Laws language and indicated that he would propose voting on the new committee descriptions at the next meeting.

C. Recommendations of the Executive Committee

1. Vice Chairperson Leonard reported that, in response to the solicitation last spring for committee volunteers for joint and standing committee vacancies, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee had received responses totaling 56 committee positions. She thanked those who had offered to serve. She reported that the Executive Committee had made what they considered to be thoughtful selections over the summer and now recommended approval of the appointments posted on the agenda. The recommendation was moved, seconded, and approved.
2. Vice Chairperson Leonard reported that the Executive Committee had received requests from 2016-2017 Administrator Evaluation (AE) committee members to consider changes to the AE procedures and some aspects of the development of the survey instrument. In response, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee recommended the formation of an ad hoc committee of six faculty members to examine the AE process as set forth in By-Laws 4.4 and University Manual sections 5.76.10 – 5.76.12 and 10.90.9 – 10.90.17 and bring forward recommendations for changes to the current process by the February 2018 Faculty Senate Meeting. The recommendation was moved, seconded, and approved.

- D. Vice Chairperson Leonard called on Provost DeHayes to present a summary of the administrator evaluation of Dr. Nasser Zawia, Dean of the Graduate School, carried out in 2016-17 and completed the spring 2017 semester. The Provost thanked the members of the Dean's evaluation committee: Professors Peter August (chair), Kathleen Davis, Brian Heikes, Laura Meyerson, and Senator Hillary Leonard. He reported that 99 graduate faculty, 15 administrative personnel involved in graduate programs, and 29 Graduate School and other staff had responded to the survey. He said that the Dean had received consistently positive responses in all categories. His strengths were reported in areas of overall leadership and support of diversity of graduate programs. Areas of potential future improvement were identified as communication, flexibility, and recruitment of graduate students.

4. Status of Actions Forwarded to the President

Chairperson Conley reported that the status of the legislation forwarded to the President after the April 20, 2017 Faculty Senate meeting had been posted on the agenda.

5. REPORTS OF STANDING, JOINT, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- A. Professor Salazar, a member of the Graduate Council, presented Curricular Report No. 2017-18-1 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate. He said that there were 4 courses in the report; **MAF 500X** was a temporary course and was presented as informational. He asked for a motion to approve **MTH 453 Basic Random Processes** for graduate credit and changes to the course descriptions of **ENG 510** and **ENG 511**. A motion was made, seconded, and the courses were approved.
- B. Senator Emeritus and Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) Chair Sullivan presented the 541st Curricular Affairs Committee Report. The following temporary courses had been approved by the CAC and were presented as informational: **BPS 426X, cGMP Environmental Risks, Control and Monitoring; MTH 180X, Mathematical Tools for Computing; MSL 203X, Leadership and Military History; and MSL 303X, Advanced Leadership Management I.**
- C. Senator Williams introduced himself as the new chair of the General Education Committee and presented General Education Committee Report 2017-18-1. He said that, because the Committee included at least two Senate members, the Report would be presented to the Senate as a seconded motion to approve. He asked if there were any discussion regarding **CVE 323G, Humanitarian Engineering** and **CMB 265G, Science and Pseudoscience**. There was none. The Chair called the vote and the motion passed. Senator Williams informed those assembled that the General Education Committee had instituted some practices designed to clear old, unapproved course proposals. He indicated that the Chair would be responsible for communication (feedback and revisions) between the committee and the proposers. Proposals for which revisions were not received by the end of the year or not under active revision would expire at the end of the academic year.

6. PRESENTATION

Athletic Director Bjorn presented a report of the Athletic Advisory Board and projected [Power Point slides](#) highlighting the 2016-17 student-athletes: demographics, percent supported by athletic-related financial aid, academic accomplishments, and academic services available to student-athletes. Director Bjorn emphasized that student-athletes are free to pursue any major and are currently enrolled in 57 different majors. He reported that the average spring 2017 GPA was 3.06. Spring 2017 was the third consecutive semester with a reported GPA of greater than 3.00. He noted highlights of the 2016-17 season: Men's Basketball Atlantic 10 NCAA Championship Title, and Men's Outdoor Track and Field Atlantic 10, New England Champions. Director Bjorn answered questions. 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.

7. Chairperson Conley asked if there were any Old Business. There was none.
8. Chairperson Conley asked if there were any New Business. There was none.
9. Chairperson Conley asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff