

2017

Faculty Senate Minutes November 16, 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

November 16, 2017

Minutes, Meeting #3

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 "If I Had a Hammer."

All members were present except Senators Anderson, Bide, Cooper, Kincaid, Krieger, Martin, Melanson, Pearson-Merkowitz, and Thiem; *ex officio* members President Dooley, Provost DeHayes, Vice Presidents Collins and Rider; Deans Bonn, Boughida, Ebrahimpour, Richmond, Wolfe, and Wright. Associate Dean Smith represented Dean Corliss, Associate Dean Veeger represented Dean Kirby, Associate Dean Quilliam represented Dean Liguori, Associate Dean Eaton represented Dean Riley, and Associate Dean Seitsinger represented Dean Rolle.

2. Chairperson Conley announced that the minutes of Faculty Senate meeting #2, October 19, 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 reported that appointments to the ad hoc committee to consider changes to the Administrator Evaluation procedures were complete. The committee would report back to the Senate in 2018.
2. Chairperson Conley called on Vice Provost Bodah to report on the NEASC accreditation site visit of October 22 - 25. The Vice Provost reported that the site visit, a follow-up to the self-study that was submitted on September 8, had been successful. The visiting team consisted of nine institutional leaders. They were impressed with the campus and the community. The Vice Provost thanked the Faculty Senate, the Student Senate, and the AAUP for their participation in the discussion sessions. The Vice Provost noted that the student sessions, in particular, were very well attended. The team provided an exit report on the last day of their visit, October 25. They will provide a draft of their final report by December 6. President Dooley and the Chair of the

team, Dr. Susan Hunter, will meet with NEASC's Commission on Institutions of Higher Education in February 2018. The final report will be made available by the Provost's Office.

3. Chairperson Conley thanked Vice Provost Bodah for his tireless efforts over nearly two years to prepare the University for its review.
4. Chairperson Conley announced that a reception would follow today's meeting. He encouraged all to stay and join in the opportunity to socialize and he thanked Dean Kirby for graciously agreeing to sponsor the reception.
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 #9, #10, and #11 were available on the Faculty Senate website. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

4. In the President's absence, Chairperson Conley announced that the status of the legislation from the previous meeting, October 19, 2017, was indicated on the agenda.

5. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Senator DiCioccio, Director of the Office of Innovation in General Education, provided an update on the status of the General Education Program and projected [power point slides](#). In its second year, the Director reported that the Program had created momentum. In the current fall 2017 semester, 400 faculty representing all academic colleges were teaching 1000 general education classes, totaling over 34,000 seats. Director DiCioccio reported also that the General Education website had been launched at the beginning of the semester. Resources for faculty, students, and advisors and lists of all approved courses organized by student learning outcome and by department were available on the website. Workshops and brown bag lunches to assist faculty in proposal development have been offered in collaboration with the Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning. The Office of Innovation in General Education sponsored two General Education course fairs to acquaint students with course offerings. The Director reported that the first round of the phase I assessment had been completed. Six student learning outcome rubrics had been assessed: social and behavioral sciences (A2); communicate effectively (B2); civic knowledge and responsibilities (C1); humanities (A3); information literacy (B4); global responsibilities (C2). 120 faculty participated in the assessment. To avoid a 5000 seat shortfall in 2018, more courses were needed in the following outcomes: civic knowledge and responsibilities (C1); diversity and inclusion (C3), integrate and apply (D1), and Grand Challenge are needed. D1 and Grand Challenge workshops are planned for the spring. The Director praised the faculty for delivering creative, valuable, and meaningful experiences in the classroom. The Office of Innovation in General Education plans to recognize faculty and support general education activities through development of a General Education Innovation Fund and a General Education Innovation Award program. Director DiCioccio spotlighted 4 faculty for their exceptionally

creative and innovative courses: Professor Rolle Koster, HIS 112 History of the Medieval Europe; Professor Tovar, NFS 212G Nutrition and Public Health; Professor Hutchison, PSC 116G Introduction to International Politics; and Professor Ward-Ritacco, KIN 375G Exercise is Medicine. Undergraduate student Ms. Loberti provided a reflection on her experience in PSC 116G. Undergraduate student Ms. Mohanty offered feedback on her experience in KIN 375G. Director DiCioccio answered questions.

- B.** Professors Torrens and Phelps, and Mr. Temple, Student Senate Academic Chair presented a report on the work of the Affordable Course Materials Task Force. Professor Torrens explained that the Task Force, an ad hoc group, had been convened by the Provost to help address the rising cost of student textbooks and other class materials. She projected [power point slides](#) and cited data on the increase in textbook prices since 1980 and the impact of the cost of required texts on student choice. Professor Phelps said that average student budget for course materials is \$1250/year. She said that faculty can control what they assign their students and that it is possible to redesign courses in order to rely less on expensive materials. Mr. Temple shared his experiences meeting course requirements on limited funds. He asked faculty to consider giving students options by utilizing “early adoption,” declaring text choices early to allow students to find less expensive used books. He also noted that students are often required to purchase software that is underutilized or used solely for class attendance. Mr. Temple read a prepared resolution, asking that, wherever possible, faculty adopt affordable course materials and administrators encourage and support the adoption and creation of those materials and moved its approval. The resolution was seconded and approved.
- C.** Vice Provost Libutti presented the Fall 2017 Enrollment Management update. He summarized enrollment challenges in higher education in 2017. Declining enrollment has prompted some school closures. Factors in the decline, he explained, include decreasing numbers (shrinking population) of college-eligible students, rising student debt, and declining state support. The Vice Provost reported that only one-third of colleges nation-wide had met their enrollment targets by the May deposit deadline. Over 550 colleges had continued to seek enrollees over the summer months. He said that credit rating agencies (Moody's) predict more school closures and mergers. The Vice Provost said that, in spite of these challenges, URI had a record enrollment for the 7th year in a row of 17,382 students (13,993 undergraduate, 3006 graduate, 220 other, 163 non-degree). He cited additional data: 22,656 undergraduate applications, over 1500 transfer applications; freshman enrollment of 3298 (41 over the target); improving student diversity and selectivity. Successes continue to be seen in graduate student enrollments, fully online program enrollments, the 4-year graduation rate (52.3% up from 38.5% in 2008), the 6-year graduation rate (65.6% up from 58.9% in 2008), the first year retention rate (85.2%), and the percentage of students earning at least 30 credits in their freshman year (74% in 2016). The Vice Provost attributed these successes to the work of the URI community, the work that takes place in the classroom, and all who participate in open houses, welcome days, and other events. He added that individual stories about URI community members add to URI's success and value.

6. REPORTS OF STANDING, JOINT, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- A.** Professor Gindy presented Report 2016-17-1 from the Academic Calendar and Standards Committee. She presented and moved approval of changes to University Manual section **8.33.11** regarding registration and (course) add period deadlines for fully online programs. The motion passed.

- B. Associate Dean Rusnock presented Curricular Report No. 2017-18-2 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate. One 400-level course for graduate credit was presented as informational. The Associate Dean moved approval of four new courses: **BES 502X, STEM Course Design in Higher Education, BIO/DSP 539, Big Data Analysis, EVS 505, Environmental Leadership in Practice, and PHP 535X, Introduction to Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis.** The motion passed. She moved approval of 10 course changes from the College of Business Administration (MBA course titles) and 2 course changes (cross listing) from the College of Health Sciences. The motion was approved. The Associate Dean moved approval of 4 program changes: change in the name of the MA in Political Science to the MA in International Relations, discontinue the comprehensive exam in the MS in Medical Physics, expand the culminating experience requirements for the Masters of Environmental Science and Management (MESM), and discontinue the comprehensive exam in the MA in Education and Ma in Special Education. The motion was approved.
- C. Dean Zawia presented Curricular Report No. 2017-18-3 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate. He asked for a motion to approve the graduate specialization, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. The motion was seconded and approved.
- D. Senator Emeritus Sullivan presented the 543rd Curricular Affairs Committee Report. He reported that **COM / SUS 460 Environmental Communication: Local & Global** had been approved for online delivery (informational). He moved approval of the full report; the motion was seconded. He presented the following new courses: **ECN 358 Globalization and National Economies, FLM/COM 417 Media Industry History & Practice, EGR 201 Seminar in Naval Science and Technology, BPS 446 Biotechnology, Biologics and Biosimilars, BPS 345 Introduction to Pharmaceutical Research;** and course changes: **COM 381 Research Methods in Communication, COM 383 Rhetorical Theory, COM 440 Telecommunications Processes and Audience Behavior, COM 450 Organizational Communication Theory, COM 477 Internship in Communication Studies, PRS 477 Public Relations Internship, ELE 301 Digital Design with FPGAs, and ELE 302 Digital Design with FPGAs Laboratory.** Senator Sullivan continued and presented the following program changes: change of transfer requirements from University College to the BS in Geology and Geological Oceanography, changes in supporting courses from the Biology department for the BS in Biomedical Engineering, change in the requirements for the BS in Mechanical Engineering resulting in the total number of credits dropping from 121 to 120. The motion passed.
- E. Senator Williams presented General Education Committee Report 2017-18-3 as a seconded motion to approve. He asked if there were any discussion regarding **OCG 106G, You, Me, and Life in the Sea (A1) (B4) (GC); GEO 100G, Environmental Geology (A1) (C2) (GC); and ISE/SUS 461G, Solar Energy Systems (C2) (A1) (GC).** There was none. The motion passed. Senator Williams reported further that the Committee had discussed the applicability of the D1, Integrate and Apply student learning outcome to 100- and 200-level courses. The D1 outcome presumes significant prior acquisition of knowledge and skills. He asked Senators to discuss the question with faculty in their programs and advise him on the matter.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Chairperson Conley explained that, at the October 19, 2017 Meeting of the Faculty Senate, amendments to and new sections of the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate had been moved, seconded and discussed. Per Section **12.1** of the By-Laws whereby proposed amendments to the By-Laws may not be voted upon at the meeting at which they are first moved, he said they were now returned to the Faculty Senate for further consideration. He asked if there were further discussion regarding By-Laws **4.13 - 4.16**. Senator Rice proposed amending section **4.13** by adding the following statement to the end of the section: *The Executive Committee or committee chairs may also ask faculty who are not Senate members to serve as non-voting advisors to standing committees as needed.* The motion to amend was seconded. Discussion followed. Senator Honhart asked for a rationale. Senator Rice responded that, since committee membership would draw exclusively from the Senate, this amendment would allow the committee to benefit from expertise not found among its members, if necessary. The vote was called; the amendment was approved. Senator Rice requested that section **4.13** be divided from **4.14 – 4.16** to allow a vote on the unchanged sections. Professor Wenisch informed the Senate that it would be permissible to vote on **4.13 - 4.16** as presented on the agenda and return the amended language of **4.13** for a vote at the next meeting of the Senate. Senator Rice withdrew his request. Associate Dean Eaton commented that there were costs associated with the course release allowed for each chair of a standing committee as stipulated in new section **4.15**. Senator Gindy commented that the course release was indicative of the value placed on the work of the faculty on these important committees. Senator Leonard moved that the term of the committee chair be changed from two years to one year. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed. The vote was called; the motion failed. Chairperson Conley called the vote on the main motion, sections **4.13- 4.16** as presented on the agenda. The motion passed.
- B. Chairperson Conley reminded Senators that, at the October 19, 2017 Meeting of the Faculty Senate, the Executive Committee had been directed to consider language changes to the Committee for Research and Creative Activities that would allow additional members, enlarging the committee through the creation of subcommittees, for the purpose of reviewing proposals. The motion to approve replacing existing Standing Committees with new Standing Committees, By-Laws sections **4.20 – 4.70** with a proposed amendment comprising sections **4.40 – 4.46**, was returned to the floor for discussion. Chairperson Conley asked if there were a motion to accept the amendment. The amendment was moved and seconded. Senator Derbyshire requested that the main motion be divided such that By-Laws sections **4.20 – 4.34** and **4.50 – 4.70** be considered as one motion and By-Laws sections **4.40 – 4.46** be considered as a second motion. Chairperson Conley granted the request. He asked if there were any discussion regarding sections **4.20 – 4.34** and **4.50 – 4.70**. There was none. He called the vote; new sections **4.20 – 4.34** and **4.50 – 4.70** were approved. Chairperson Conley asked if there were any discussion regarding sections **4.40 – 4.46**. Senator Roberts moved that the amendment to section **4.40** be amended with the addition of this statement: *The additional faculty members might not be Senators if the Faculty Senate Executive Committee determines that the committee would benefit from having voting members with areas of expertise not currently available among those serving in the Senate.* The motion to amend was seconded. Discussion followed. Senator McCurdy asked for a rationale. Senator Roberts responded that the expertise required for proposal or center review might not be available in the Senate. Senator Gindy asserted that the amendment to By-Laws **4.13** previously considered would apply to such situations. Senator Roberts

indicated that it would be desirable for all faculty involved to be voting members. Discussion continued. Senator Williams indicated that allowing non-Senate members to serve on one of the standing committees contradicted the vote by the Senate [October 19, 2017] concerning Senate committee membership. Senator Schwegler pointed out that it would be difficult to anticipate the areas of expertise lacking at the time in the year when committee appointments would be made. Chairperson Conley called the vote on the amendment to the amendment; the motion failed. Chairperson Conley called the vote on amended sections **4.40 – 4.46** as presented on the agenda. The motion to approve the amendment passed. He explained that a final vote on sections **4.40 – 4.46** would be presented at the next meeting of the Senate, December 7.

- C. Professor Wenisch presented Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee Report 2017-18-1, changes to By-Laws **6.1** and **6.2**, as directed by the Faculty Senate at the October 19, 2017 Meeting of the Faculty Senate. He explained that the By-Laws changes proposed were intended to adapt the current rules for the selection of members and chairs of standing senate committees to the model that the Faculty Senate had adopted at its October 19, 2017 meeting. The model required that membership on all senate committees be derived entirely from the body of the Faculty Senate. The changes were moved and seconded. There was no discussion.

- 8. Chairperson Conley asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff