

2017

# Faculty Senate Minutes December 7, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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## UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE

### Faculty Senate Meeting

Richard E. Beupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences, Room 105

December 7, 2017

Minutes, Meeting #4

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. Beupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences, Chairperson Conley presiding. The call to order was followed by an invitation to accompany the Chair in singing 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 Cooper, Derbyshire, DiCioccio, Kincaid, Mahler, Moore, Ohley, Pearson-Merkowitz, Wang, and Wyatt; *ex officio* members President Dooley, Vice Presidents Collins and Rider; Deans Bonn, Liguori, Richmond, Wolfe, Wright, and Zawia. Associate Dean Smith represented Dean Corliss, Associate Dean Veeger represented Dean Kirby, Associate Dean Eaton represented Dean Riley, and Associate Dean Seitsinger represented Dean Rolle.

2. Chairperson Conley announced that the minutes of Faculty Senate meeting #3, November 16, 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 thanked Dean Wright for sponsoring the reception that would follow the meeting. He noted that more Senate members were staying after the meetings to take

advantage of the good food.

2. Chairperson Conley reported that, on December 6, he and Vice Chairperson Leonard had met with Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Beauvais, and Vice Provost Bodah to discuss what appeared to have been unintended fiscal consequences as a result of the committee reorganization. Chairperson Conley said that he had recommended that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meet with the Provost's team in order to consider possible future amendments to the legislation in this regard and in the spirit of shared governance. He said that potential amendments would not affect the proposed committee structure itself but would ensure that faculty were appropriately recognized for their service contributions while finding fiscal means to do so. He recommended continuing with the legislation as written, promising in good faith to work for an equitable solution.

#### B. Activities of the Executive Committee

Vice Chairperson Leonard announced that the Minutes of Executive Committee meetings #12, #13, and #14 were available on the Faculty Senate website. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

#### C. Recommendations of the Executive Committee

Vice Chairperson Leonard reported that there has been growing interest in developing non-credit credentials, or digital badges. She said that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee recommended the formation of an ad hoc committee of at least six faculty members to define non-credit, digital credentials and how they would be approved and awarded. The recommendation was moved, seconded, and approved.

- D. Vice Chairperson Leonard called on Provost DeHayes to present a summary of the Faculty Senate administrator evaluation of Dean Libutti, Vice Provost of Enrollment Management, carried out in 2016-17 and completed the spring 2017 semester. Provost DeHayes reported that he had met with the evaluation committee in the fall and he thanked committee members Cheryl Foster, Leslie Mahler, Diane Martins, Paula McGlasson, and Adam Roth. The Provost said that he considered providing evaluation results to an administrator's constituency to be important part of the review process but, respectful of the fact that the information was part of a personnel review, he would offer a general summary of the results. He said that 4.8% of faculty and 55% of staff and other stakeholders who had received the survey had responded. He said that Vice Provost Libutti's review was extraordinarily positive. 94-100% of both faculty and other stakeholders rated him effective in areas of leadership, vision, personnel development, and personal characteristics. Respondents indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed that the Vice Provost was effective in building strategic partnerships, building a stronger student body, using data to analyze trends, and that he was approachable and trustworthy. Respondents indicated strong confidence in the Vice Provost's future leadership ability. The committee's report indicated that the URI community would welcome more avenues of communication about the Vice Provost's activities. The Provost said he would consider appropriate venues to improve

communication. The Provost concluded that the report had recognized the Vice Provost as a true public servant.

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

- A. Professor Gindy presented Report 2016-17-2 from the Academic Calendar and Standards Committee. She presented and moved approval of the academic calendar for Summer 2023. The motion passed.
- B. Graduate School Assistant Dean Mosley Austin presented Curricular Report No. 2017-18-4 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate. She presented and moved approval of one new course, **OCE 517, Fluid-Structure Interactions and Floating Body Dynamics**, and a change to the non-thesis M.S. program in Ocean Engineering: eliminating the comprehensive exams. The motion was approved.
- C. Senator Emeritus Sullivan presented the 544th Curricular Affairs Committee Report. He reported that the Curricular Affairs Committee had approved deletion of **ART 300, Art History Internship** and had approved temporary course, **BUS 432X, Practice of Finance**. These actions required no vote from the Senate. Senator Emeritus Sullivan moved approval of the following new courses: **WRT 388, Proposal Writing for Clients** and **MAF 310, Communication for Marine Affairs**. The motion passed. He moved approval of changes to the following courses: **ART 477, Art and Art History Internship**, **CSC 110, Survey of Computer Science**, **LAR 477, Landscape Architecture Internship**, **THE 477, Professional Internship**, and **NRS 403, Quantitative Wildlife Ecology Field Investigations**. The motion passed. He moved approval of course requirement changes to the **BA and BS in Marine Affairs**. The motion passed.
- D. Senator Williams presented General Education Committee Report 2017-18-4 as a seconded motion to approve. He asked if there were any discussion regarding **ENG 450G, Performing Race (D1) (C3) (GC)**; **HIS 333, Russia Since 1900 (B4) (B1)**; **BIO 256G, Risking our Reefs: Human Impacts on Ecosystem Builders (A1) (C2) (GC)**; **NRS 330G, The Biodiversity Crisis (A1) (C2) (GC)**; **BIO 482G, Evolutionary Medicine of Human Health and Disease (D1) (B1)**; **HDF 208, Health and Wellness of the Young Child (A2)**; and **NUR 280G, Social Determinants of Health (C3) (GC)**. There was none. The motion to approve was passed.
- E. Professor Malloy, Associate Director of the Honors Program, presented the 2016-2017 Report of the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee. He described the Honors Office as comprised of three distinct divisions: the Honors Program, National Fellowships, and Pre-health professions advising. He said that, three years ago, the eligibility standards for the Honors Program had been amended for entering freshmen to allow students the option of qualifying based on high school GPA only, eliminating the SAT score requirement. This change was instituted because of concerns that SAT scores could be correlated with family income and first generation and Pell-eligible students were being disproportionately excluded. In AY 2017-18, there were 1168 eligible accepted students, up from 1076 in AY 2016-17. The 2016 Honors Colloquium, titled *Inequality and the American Dream*, was coordinated by Professors Jill Doerner (Department of Sociology), Kristin Johnson (Department of Political Science), Erik Loomis

(Department of History), and Liam Malloy (Department of Economics). The Colloquium examined topics such as poverty and homelessness, race, diversity, and education. The 2017 Honors Colloquium, titled *Origins: Life the Universe and Everything*, was coordinated by Dr. Alycia Mosley Austin (Assistant Director, Graduate School and adjunct professor, Cell and Molecular Biology), Professors Joel Chandlee (Cell and Molecular Biology), Dawn Cardace (Geosciences), Holly Dunsworth (Sociology and Anthropology), and Albert Kausch (Cell and Molecular Biology). He enumerated the 2016-17 national fellowship award recipients, scholarship recipients, and medical program admissions.

- F. Senator Emeritus Sullivan provided an update of the work of the ad hoc committee on admissions to study and make recommendations concerning an admissions waiver of the foreign language requirement for ESL high school students whose high schools have no foreign language graduation requirement. Committee members included Arthur Spivack (Oceanography), Betsy Cooper (Business Administration), Lynne Derbyshire (Communications Studies), Michael Honhart (History), Tom Morin (Languages), Bryan Dewsbury (Biological Sciences), Dean Libutti (Enrollment Services), and Jacqui Tisdale (Student Life). Senator Sullivan reported that he had not been able to identify the documentation establishing the current 18 credits required of a URI freshman applicant [4 in English, 3 in mathematics including Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and geometry; 2 in a physical or natural science (including at least one laboratory science); 2 in history or social science; 2 in the same foreign language; 5 additional college preparatory units to total 18]; however, the roots of these requirements could be traced to an Act of the General Assembly in 1898 [[the Tenth Annual Report of the Corporation, Board of Managers, of the R.I. College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, made to the General Assembly at its January Session, 1898](#)]. Senator Sullivan explained that a request for consideration of an admissions waiver of the foreign language requirement (two years of a foreign language) for students who satisfy the New York Regent's Diploma requirements (one year of language other than English) had been brought to his attention by Professor of Oceanography, Arthur Spivack who has partnered with the New York Harbor School, Governors Island, New York, NY (supported by the New York Harbor Foundation). The ad hoc committee had considered the following language:

*Students who have 18 units of college preparatory course work who attend high schools that **do not offer** foreign language may still be considered for admission. The admission committee will consider all aspects of the student's application, with special emphasis on the rigor of the courses selected and academic performance in those courses. Students admitted under these circumstances will be required to take foreign language coursework in their first year at URI.*

The following change was suggested from the floor: *Students admitted under these circumstances will be required to take **two courses of a foreign language coursework** in their first year at URI.*

Discussion followed. Testing out of the admission requirement (not to be confused with testing out of the graduation requirement) was discussed. A motion was made to request that the ad hoc committee return a formal recommendation to the Faculty Senate at its January 25, 2018 meeting. The motion was approved.

## 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Chairperson Conley explained that, at the November 16, 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 the amendment to By-Laws **4.13**. There was none. The vote was called; the amendment was approved.
- B. Chairperson Conley asked if there were further discussion regarding By-Laws sections **4.40 – 4.46**, the description of the Committee for Research and Creative Activities approved at the November 16, 2017 Meeting of the Faculty Senate. There was none. The vote was called; the amendment was approved.
- C. Chairperson Conley called on Professor Wenisch who returned to the floor for discussion previously approved By-Laws sections **6.1 – 6.3** (and renumbered **6.4**) and **3.5** describing the new rules for the selection of members and chairs of standing committees of the Faculty Senate. He asked if there were further discussion; there was none. The vote was called; the changes were approved.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Conley asked if there were any New Business. He called on Mr. Riley Temple, Student Senate Academic Chair. Mr. Temple reported that the Student Senate had passed an opinion bill asserting that references to Columbus Day on all academic calendars and syllabi be changed to Indigenous Peoples Day. The Student Senate had drafted a resolution. Mr. Temple asked the Faculty Senate to consider the following:

Let it be Resolved, that Columbus Day would officially be replaced with Indigenous People's Day from current and future URI Academic Calendars, events calendars, and that faculty be asked to change it on their syllabi, and let it be further

Resolved, that Columbus Day would officially be replaced with Indigenous People's Day and that an honest effort is created by the University to celebrate and educate the community on Indigenous Peoples' cultures, their history, and contributions to our society.

Chairperson Conley asked if there were a motion to adopt these statements in principle. A motion was made, seconded, and discussed. Faculty expressed support for the intention but anticipated that there would be difficulty changing the language and/or observation of the day because of state law and collective bargaining agreements. Senator Gindy, Chair of the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee (AS&CC), said that the AS&CC had consulted Mr. Humphrey, Senior Associate Director of Enrollment Services on the issue. He had indicated that it would be difficult for the same reasons

already mentioned. Senator Gindy suggested that the best that faculty could do would be to promote education and she reiterated a portion of the Student Senate resolution, “an honest effort is created by the University to celebrate and educate the community on Indigenous Peoples’ cultures, their history, and contributions to our society.” Discussion continued. A motion was made to table the discussion, suggesting that Senators return to their departments discuss the issue with their colleagues. The motion failed. Chairperson Conley restated the motion, to adopt the resolution statements in principle. Senator Vocino called the vote. The motion passed. Senator Williams moved that the Faculty Senate direct the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee and its descendants [future configurations of the AS&CC] to consider all contingencies in removing references to Columbus Day from the academic calendar and consider replacing them with references to Indigenous People’s Day and report on the matter at the March [22, 2018] Faculty Senate meeting. The motion was seconded, discussed, and approved. Discussion continued. Senator Martin suggested that, additionally, the Senate engage in an educational event or undertaking to develop a higher awareness of native cultures, and the relationship of URI to local native cultures. Associate Dean Morokoff informed the Senators that the URI Native American Advisory Council had convened and was addressing similar issues. Senator Sullivan suggested that the administration make the Senate aware of relevant informal and formal discussions that may be ongoing. Chairperson Conley asked for a motion to request that the Provost report at the March Senate meeting on ideas of how to acknowledge Indigenous People’s Day. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

7. Chairperson Conley asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff