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Faculty Senate Minutes December 12, 2013

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Meeting

December 12, 2013

Minutes #4

1. Immediately following a meeting of the General Faculty-Graduate Faculty, the regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:13 p.m. in the Cherry Auditorium, Chester Kirk Building, Chairperson Byrd presiding.

All members were present except Senators Blanpied, Gordon, Heikes, Hunter, Hutchison, Kim, Krieger, Kusz, Paton, Pearson-Merkowitz, Sullivan, Thomas, Trubiano, Walton, Wittwer, Xiao, Ye, and Zhang (Senator Spivack was represented by Prof. Merrill); President Dooley, Vice Provosts Katz, Libutti, and McCray; CIO Bozylinsky; Deans Bonn, Corliss, Larrat, Maslyn, Richmond, and Sullivan. Dean Kirby was represented by Assoc. Dean Veeger.

2. Chairperson Byrd announced that the Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting #3, November 21, 2013 had been posted on the Faculty Senate website. He asked if there were any additions, corrections to or questions about these Minutes. There were none.

Chairperson Byrd ruled that in the absence of any changes or corrections, the Minutes were approved.

3. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. Announcements

1) Chairperson Byrd reported that plans were continuing for another co-sponsored forum on campus safety. "Critical Components of a Comprehensive Approach to Campus Safety and Well Being," featuring experts in mental health issues and psychological counseling, training for campus police in non-violent intervention, and emergency preparedness and protocols was tentatively scheduled for January 30, 2014. More information will be made available as the date draws closer.

2) Chairperson Byrd reported that the UCGE committee had been asked to prepare a report on the revised general education program to be completed in December. The committee has informed the FSEC that the report will not be complete until January. Once received, the report will be distributed to senators and a Senate forum will be scheduled. A vote on the revisions will follow at the subsequent Senate meeting.

3) Chairperson Byrd expressed his appreciation to Dean Lori Ciccomascolo for agreeing to sponsor the reception at the University Club after the meeting. He encouraged everyone to attend and noted that the reception gives Senators, ex officio members, and guests an opportunity to meet one another in an informal setting.

4) Chairperson Byrd asked everyone to remember to wait to be recognized by the chair before speaking. He noted that it would be very helpful for participants to identify themselves before they speak.

B. Vice Chairperson Rice announced that the Minutes of the 2013-14 Executive Committee Meetings #14 and #19 were available on the Faculty Senate website. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

A. Provost DeHayes announced that President Dooley was unable to attend the meeting and he presented an update on several issues and initiatives.

The Provost reported that the Board of Education has been holding public forums at the campuses of the institutions of higher education around the state to present and solicit input on a draft plan for a governance structure for the Board. They are proposing to maintain one Board but divide governance of K-12 and postsecondary education between two Councils. The Board plans to present the proposal to Governor Chafee and the General Assembly in the next legislative session.

The Provost reported that the final report of the Administration and Management Review Committee was made public today (posted on the ARMC website). He urged the faculty to carefully review the plan. There will be opportunities to discuss it as a community and provide comment in preparation for decisions for implementation of the recommendations.

To date, there are approximately 410 students enrolled in Winter J-term courses including 8 travel courses. This number is more than double the anticipated enrollment for its first year.

Finish-What-You-Started, the initiative to encourage adult students to return to college to complete their degrees, has produced 170 re-enrollments and 35 graduates. An additional 650 individuals are in communication with the institution about the program. The Provost thanked the faculty for welcoming these returning students back to their classrooms.

The Provost answered questions and wished the faculty a good end of the semester and good holiday.

B. The Provost reported that the legislation forwarded to the President after the November 21, 2013 Senate meeting was approved.

5. PRESENTATION

Vice President for Student Affairs, Thomas Dougan and URI Health Services Director, Ellen Reynolds were asked to address the Senate in response to concerns raised at the November 21 Senate meeting about access to student health services on campus and limitations of the student health insurance plan. Dr. Dougan said that the Emergency Guide (linked on the agenda) was developed two years ago and is distributed to faculty and staff through the colleges. He spoke briefly about the resources in Student Affairs that are utilized in response to a student in distress or a student who is a threat. He said that he continues to look for ways to improve communication of their information.

Ms. Reynolds reported on the services available through the Health Services, open 8am – 8pm in the Potter Building on Butterfield Road: acute care, primary care, physical exams, travel medicine, allergy shots, women's clinic, pharmacy, x-ray, education, stress relief. Services are available to students who have paid the health services fee (\$246 per semester, mandatory for all full-time Kingston undergraduate and graduate students, international students; optional for matriculating students at CCE and part-time students). The hours of operation are consistent with other urgent care facilities. Limited health services are available during semester breaks and in the summer. There is some consideration being given to expanding hours during the summer. URI EMS is available on campus 24/7 at no cost to students by dialing 874-2121.

Student Senate representative, Joseph Maynard, asked questions regarding hours of operation, indicating that many students are just starting their evening at 8pm and can be up quite late. He asserted that students would utilize the health services if available in the evening. He also asked

about the health insurance plan, citing incidences of denial of coverage. Ms. Reynolds said that she would attempt to resolve Mr. Maynard's concerns with him individually after the meeting.

6. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

A. Dean Killingbeck presented the Graduate Council Report No. 2013-14-2 to the Faculty Senate. He moved approval of new courses and course changes. The motion passed.

He presented a proposal from the College of Engineering, Doctoral program in Mechanical, Industrial and Systems Engineering, to eliminate a candidacy review (i.e., Qualifying Examination) for all students except those having only a bachelor's degree, and to change the ISE PhD degree and major names to "Industrial and Systems Engineering."

Dean Killingbeck moved approval of these changes. The motion passed.

B. Professor Brand presented the Five Hundred and Tenth Report of the Curricular Affairs Committee. She said that Section I was informational and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Professor Brand noted that Section II required confirmation by the Faculty Senate and moved approval. The motion passed.

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

Chairperson Byrd asked if there were any New Business.

Senator Goldsmith commented that wider publicity should be given to the Open Access Policy (digital manuscripts), approved by the Senate in 2012-13.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff