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Faculty Senate Minutes October 17, 2013

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Meeting

October 17, 2013

Minutes #2

1. The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:10 p.m. in the Cherry Auditorium, Chester Kirk Building, Chairperson Byrd presiding.

All members were present except Senators Gordon, Howard, Hunter, Krieger, Lee, Matthew, Mead, Meagher, Menden-Deuer, Paton, Pearson-Merkowitz, Taveira, Trubiano, Welters, and Ye, (Senator Spivack was represented by Prof. Merrill); Vice President Dougan, Vice Provost Beauvais and CIO Bozylinsky, (Vice Provost McCray was represented by Assoc. Dean Quina); Deans Bonn, Ciccomascolo, Corliss, Higgins, Maslyn, Sullivan, Wright, and Zawia. Dean Kirby was represented by Assoc. Dean Veeger.

2. Chairperson Byrd announced that the Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting #1, September 19, 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 comments or corrections, the Minutes were approved.

3. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. Announcements

1) Chairperson Byrd introduced Christina Valentino, newly appointed Vice President for Administration and Finance, and Gerald Sonnenfeld, newly appointed Vice President for Research and Economic Development and welcomed them to their first URI Faculty Senate meeting.

2) Chairperson Byrd reminded the senators of the continuing series of public forums on Arming URI Police: October 28, URI, Kingston, MU Ballroom, 3-4PM, and October 30, Feinstein Providence Campus, Auditorium, 5-6 PM.

3) Chairperson Byrd expressed his appreciation to Vice President Valentino 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 #5, #7, #9 and #10 were available on the Faculty Senate website. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

C. Vice Chairperson Rice announced that he had one recommendation on behalf of the Executive Committee. He moved approval of new sections 8.86.20 - 8.86.27, Focused Review of an Academic Program, to be included in the University Manual.

The motion carried.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

A. President Dooley announced that he had approved the legislation forwarded to him after the September 19, 2013 Senate meeting.

B. The President announced that the next distinguished guest speaker at the Fall 2013 Honors Colloquium was David Bergeron, Vice President for postsecondary education, Center for American Progress, and former acting assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Education. On October 22, he is scheduled to talk on the future of public higher education. The President encouraged all to attend.

5. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Professor Brand presented the Five Hundred and Eighth 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 carried.

6. PRESENTATION

Vice President Valentino and Director Barrett reported on the University's budget for FY'14 and FY'15. They presented a series of Power Point slides and responded to questions throughout their presentation. A few highlights from the presentation: URI is a tuition dependent institution. The institution compensated for a projected \$6 million shortfall in FY'14 through a savings in fringe (rate increases were not as high as projected), cuts in Athletics, Administration and Finance, President, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Student Aid, and increases in enrollment. URI has the highest enrollment in history, having grown by more than 4,000 students over the past 14 years. Recognizing that there is a declining number of high school graduates, balancing the budget based on annual enrollment growth is not sustainable. Annual budget reductions limit the University's ability to strategically reinvest funds in fulfillment of the mission, the Academic Plan, and the President's Transformational Goals. URI recognizes the need to grow its tenure track faculty to ensure a quality academic experience for students, and capitalize on research and economic development opportunities. In FY'13, URI lost 12 faculty to positions elsewhere.

The total FY'15 budget request is \$756.6 million, a 3.3% increase over the FY'14 allocation.

Chairperson Byrd thanked the presenters.

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

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

A motion was made to adjourn.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff