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Faculty Senate Minutes April 18, 2019

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2019

1. The Faculty Senate Meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM by Senate Chair Leonard. All members were present except for Senators Kovoov, Hume, Sartini, Anderson, Loose, Kincaid, Ashley, DiTomasso, Xu, Dekker, Chandlee, Stolt, Gindy, Greaney, Blanpied, Hashemi, Schwegler and Harris. Ex-officio in attendance: President Dooley, Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Beauvais, Dean Boughida, Dean Larrat, Associate Dean Veeger for Dean Kirby, Associate Dean Seitsinger for Dean Rollo, Associate Dean Chen for Dean Ebrahimpour, Senior Associate Director of Enrollment Services Humphrey, Student Government President Marotta, Student Government Academic Chair McGrath, Alex Magidow.

2. Disposition of Minutes: Minutes of the Faculty Senate [Meeting #7 March 21, 2019](#) were posted with the agenda. Senate Chair Leonard asked if there were any additions, corrections to or questions about the minutes. As there were no corrections or questions, the minutes were approved.

4. REPORT OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

a. Announcements-Chair Leonard

1. Senate Chair Leonard thanked Dean Jen Riley of the College of Arts & Sciences for sponsoring the reception after the Faculty Senate meeting and encouraged Senators and guests to attend.
2. Chair Leonard introduced and welcomed the newly elected Student Senate President Nick Marotta and the Student Senate Academic Chair, Thomas McGrath.
3. Chair Leonard introduced and recognized Senators who will be completing their Faculty Senate terms with their last meeting today. Chair Leonard reported the Senators and their colleagues worked tirelessly stewarding shared governance and overseeing changes to curriculum, programs of study, implementation of the General Education Program and the structural changes of the Faculty Senate. She thanked all for their hard work on behalf of the University.

b. Activities of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Senate Vice Chair Nassersharif

1. The Minutes of Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meetings [March 7, 2019](#), [March 21, 2019](#), [March 28, 2019](#), and [April 4, 2019](#) were presented. There were no comments.
2. Vice Chair Nassersharif announced the establishment of a [Special Committee on Major/Minors](#). The Committee will be reaching out to individuals to serve on the six-member committee and have them report to the Faculty Senate September meeting.

5. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

a. Announcements

President Dooley reported on upcoming changes to the Council on Postsecondary Education. The current Commissioner Brenda Dann-Messier has resigned as of May 17th. President Dooley expects an interim will be named while a search takes place to fill the position. There is also a discussion taking place in the Governor's Office and the legislature to fold the Office of Postsecondary Education into the

RI Department of Education (RIDE) as a cost saving effort. The President testified in front of the Senate and House Finance Committees on the URI budget which was well received.

There are still ongoing conversations on Article II language. URI has registered its concerns about the language and will continue the conversation with the Governor's staff.

6. PRESENTATION

a. The Director of Public Safety, Stephen N. Baker presented a PowerPoint overview of the [URI Public Safety Office](#). URI is the only College/University in RI with a full time Emergency Management officer. Fire and life safety alarms were recently upgraded. They continue to work closely with the Kingston Volunteer Fire Department. With Transportation and Parking they are trying to reduce the number of vehicles on campus and are continuing to look for other ways for people to get to campus. Three thousand students are currently taking advantage of RI Public Transportation bus passes. Director Baker said there have been serious accidents involving skateboards. Skateboards are prohibited from roadways. His department tries to enforce it as best they can, but it is difficult. He urged Faculty Senators to call his department if they see such activity. It is the policy of the department for all personnel to wear bike helmets. They have just purchased electric bikes for officers. Senator Cardany questioned if they could make it unattractive for skateboarders on campus. Director Baker responded they have been working with Campus Design around this issue. The philosophy of the URI Public Safety Office is "let's help students be safe." Senator Gordon asked about developing skateboard safety programs for students. Director Baker said the best thing they can do is educate and deter. Some intersections will be redesigned. Chair Leonard asked about the possibility for a skate park for skateboarders. Director Baker has talked to the Student Senate President about it. Senator Martin asked if Director Baker has personnel that can give presentations on bike safety and prevention. The Director responded in the affirmative, especially as a number of bike rental companies are interested in coming to campus. Upper College Road is scheduled to have bike lanes as per the transportation plan. President Dooley mentioned that the South County Bike Path will be extended to the campus this summer with funding from the bond issue that passed last year. There was a question concerning lighting [was it lighting or a light?][along 138. There will be an installation of self-activating safety lighting at the crossing site. Vice Chair Nassersharif asked if the continuing issue of speeding on Upper College Road will be addressed despite the crosswalks. Director Baker said that the Master Plan is to add more two and three way stops in addition to enhancing crosswalks. Senator Derbyshire asked if armed officers were participating in Bias Training six times per year as stipulated at the time officers were armed. Director Baker responded that he is not sure if it is six times a year, but all officers do train especially over the summer online. Senator Roll-Koster asked what is being done concerning sexual violence on campus. Director Baker said he is aware it occurs on campus as it does throughout campuses the country. URI Officers are trained in this area. Getting the word out there of the available resources in the University is important. They cannot investigate unless they know about incidents. Senator Morokoff mentioned she had attended a mandatory faculty and staff training on Title IX coordinated by the Office of Affirmative Action. Director Baker pointed out that as part of Title IX URI is required to do a Cleary Report annually which reports on campus crime statistics.

7. REPORTS OF JOINT, SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Senator Bide reported on the [Committee for Research and Creative Activities](#). He reviewed the duties of the committee and the work they have done this academic year. The Committee reviewed 34 nominations in 9 categories for the Research and Scholarship Excellence Awards and presented their recommendations to Vice President Snyder. The Committee reviewed and recommended recipients of Proposal Development (33) and Faculty Career Enhancement Grants (19). They also reviewed Centers and will further report on the work of Centers at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Senator Bide thanked all of the Committee members and subcommittee members for their hard work over the last several months.

b. Constitution and By-Laws Committee (CBUM) Committee Chair Hicks and Senator Krieger presented changes to the by-laws and the University Manual which will be voted on at the next Faculty Senate meeting (May 2, 2019) regarding [Updating of the Parliamentary Authority Text](#) and the [Honors Program](#).

c. The Graduate Council Report was presented by Associate Dean Rusnock. Curricular matters which require confirmation by the Faculty Senate included two course proposals (Pharmacy and College of Health Sciences) and five notices of change (Pharmacy, Business, Nutrition & Food Sciences, Department of Electrical Engineering, and Biological and Environmental Sciences). A motion was made to accept the Report. The motion was seconded, and the report was approved.

d. The Curriculum and Standards Committee:

i. Committee Chair Senator Cardany presented the Curriculum and Standards Committee Report [#2018-19-12](#) which included nineteen course changes, eight new courses, three existing courses seeking General Education, and one new General Education Course and fourteen program changes. The Report also included two new programs in Global Language and Area Studies and Sports Media and Communications. A motion was made to accept the report. The motion was seconded, and the report was approved.

ii. Committee Chair Cardany reviewed the [work of the Curriculum and Standards Committee](#) over the last year and thanked each of the Committee and sub-committee members for all their hard work. Three hundred eighty-five distinct items were reviewed by the Curriculum and Standards Committee, of which ninety-five percent were approved, two percent were tabled, and three percent were not approved. Average range of preparation ranged from 12 to 158 minutes for course changes, new courses, GenEd courses Program changes and new Programs.

iii. Senator Meenach reported on the Academic Calendar Subcommittee which will conduct a survey regarding preferred time spans of final exam. Changes might be implemented as soon as Fall 2021. Student Senate President Marotta asked if students would be included in the survey. Committee Chair Meenach replied that students could be included. Another issue the Committee was asked to consider was a four-day class schedule with Wednesdays scheduled for lab days. Senator Rollo-Koster asked if classes would go from 50 minutes to 75 minutes and if so it may not be feasible for all faculty. Chair Meenach said the idea originated from the College of Business. Senator Derbyshire remarked that some classes are doing this and there are problems

with registering with untraditional times. Chair Meenach said the goal is to have as many hours in front of students as possible. Academic Calendar Sub-Committee Chair Meenach thanked Curriculum and Standards Chair Cardany for her leadership of the Committee.

e. Professor Barbour, Chair of the Academic Program Review presented the [Committee's Annual Report](#). Committee Chair Barbour thanked Senator Gindy and Veronica Walsh, Executive Business Analyst in the Office of Intuitional Research, for all their assistance over the last year. The Committee is at the end of their first six-year cycle and cycle 2 has been initiated. Thirty-eight programs have gone through the process. Twelve programs will complete the process by the end of 2019.

f. Mark Oliver, Manager of Media and Technology Services presented a Report on behalf of the [Joint Classroom Steering Committee](#). Mr. Oliver gave a shout out to the CMA staff for saving the University over \$400K. He reviewed what work has been done over the past year and what classrooms and auditoriums are scheduled for upgrades in the coming months.

6. OLD BUSINESS: Chair Leonard asked if there was any unfinished business. There was none.

8. NEW BUSINESS: Chair Leonard asked if there were any New Business. There was none.

9. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Leonard asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Benz

APPROVED