

1-24-2019

Faculty Senate Minutes January 24, 2019

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting

January 24, 2019

1. The Meeting was called to order at 3:06 PM by Senate Chair Leonard. All members were present except for Senators Kovoov, Hume, Anderson, Loose, Ruemmele, Hunter, Thulier, Djurdjevic, Chandlee, Koster, Robinson, Hashemi, Harris, and Gordon.
Ex-officio in attendance: Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Libutti, Vice Provost Beauvais, Interim Chief Diversity Officer Mary Grace Almandrez, Dean Zawia, Dean Ebrahimpour, Associate Dean of Nursing Leveillee, Associate Dean Veeger, Associate Dean Seitsinger, Diane Goldsmith
2. Disposition of Minutes: minutes of the [#4 December 6, 2018](#) meeting 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.
3. **REPORT OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
 - a. Senate Chair Leonard introduced Mary Grace Almandrez, Interim Chief Diversity Officer and thanked Dean Bruce Corliss of the Graduate School of Oceanography for sponsoring the reception after the Faculty Senate meeting and encouraged Senators and guests to attend.
 - b. Senate Vice Chair Nassersharif presented the minutes of Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meetings [#18 November 14, 2018](#), [#20 November 28, 2018](#), [#21 December 5, 2018](#), [#22 December 12, 2018](#), and [#23 December 19, 2018](#). There were no comments.
 - c. The slate of candidates for the Faculty Senate Nominating Committee was presented by Senate Vice Chair Nassersharif. A motion was made and approved to accept Senators Derbyshire, Krieger and Melanson for membership on the Nominating Committee. The committee will present nominations at the February meeting of the Faculty Senate for the position of Faculty Senate Vice Chair/Chair-elect.
 - d. Senate Vice Chair Nassersharif announced the formation an Ad Hoc Committee for Curriculum Management Systems (CMS) to research and recommend online curriculum software that will communicate with the University Catalog and streamline paperwork and increase efficiency and timeliness of Curriculum and Standard Committee reviews.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The Provost reported on behalf of the President who was traveling. The Provost indicated that the meeting agenda accurately reflected the status of the legislation forwarded to the President after the previous Faculty Senate meeting of December 6, 2018.

The Provost thanked Senate Chair Leonard and Senator Cardany for spearheading the efforts for Curriculum Systems Management Committee. He remarked he is pleased that

the Curriculum Management Systems Committee is moving in the right direction and urged the Committee to identify a software system quickly as the State RFP process is lengthy. He will try to help to expedite the purchasing process.

The Provost discussed the new budget proposal unveiled by Governor Raimondo. There were some budget areas of concern which were discussed.

The Provost announced that the Post-Masters Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) was successfully noticed at Wednesday's meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Senator Hicks questioned the Provost on how the Federal shutdown is impacting the University. The Provost said the biggest impacts are people in research not being paid, but the University was covering the salaries for grant funded personnel and will be reimbursed by the Federal Government once the shut-down is over. He then thanked faculty for their hard work.

5. PRESENTATIONS

Senator Bide made a presentation on the [Draft Report of the Overhead Committee](#) which began with reviewing University Manual Language as it concerns the Committee for the Review of the Distribution of Facilities and Administrative (Overhead) Funds. The Committee Report will be late, but the hope is that next year's report will be timelier. Senator Bide presented a comparison of overhead distributions in 2018 to those of 2016, where there were slight increases in distribution rates in 2018. This ties into and is important to URI Centers. His Committee is also reviewing all Centers on Campus with cooperation from the Vice President for Research and Economic Development Snyder. He urged Senators to review the report tell their departments and fellow colleagues about it and encouraged comments be forwarded to himself (mbide@uriedu) of the Faculty Senate office. Comments will be reviewed and addressed by the Committee.

6. REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Senator Byrd Chair of the [Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee \(TAAC\)](#) made a report to the Senate. The goal of the TAAC is to increase understanding of the issues, under the committee's purview, and how it may have synergy moving forward with its work and recommendations. To assess the campus climate relative to advisement, assessment, and teaching the Committee has invited other campus groups such as Faculty Development and Office of Student Learning Outcomes Assessment and Accreditation (SLOAA) and the Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee (LOOC) to discuss topics such as Teaching and Faculty development and assessment. Senator Aberdam - asked about assessment reviewing the IDEA forms. There were questions from the floor for Senator Byrd. They only get involved if the professor wants to go over the results. Senator Morokoff asked if TAAC could look at the Starfish program when they are reviewing the advising and assessment and report back. Senator Byrd thought that is a good idea.

- b. Curricular Report [No. 2018-19-6, Appendix A](#) from the Graduate Council was presented by Associate Dean Rusnock and was approved.
- c. The Curriculum and Standards Committee report was presented by Senator Cardany
1. Curriculum and Standards Committee Report [#2018-19-5, Appendices A-G, Appendix H](#) was presented. Senator Ashley from the College of Business moved to have SPC 383, 403, and 420 severed from the report and sent back to the Curriculum and Standards Committee for concerns of overlap with business courses. The motion was approved.
Senator Sodhi recommended that the courses also be presented to the College of Engineering for overlap concerns.
Senator Aberdam asked what percentage of course material constitutes overlap.
Senator Cardany explained that the C&S Committee would make that decision.
The remainder of the courses on Report 2018-19-5 were approved
The program proposals on Report 2018-19-5 were approved
 2. Curriculum and Standards Committee Report, Academic Calendar Subcommittee, [Report 2018-19-6](#) was presented by Subcommittee Chair Senator Meenach.
Interim Chief Diversity Officer Almandrez inquired if there was a possibility of adding “and Indigenous Peoples’ Day” to the Columbus Day listing.
Senator Gindy informed the Senate that the previous Academic and Standards Calendar Committee had discussed having 2 calendars, one reflecting state and union negotiated holidays (such as Columbus Day) and a second URI calendar which uses Indigenous Peoples’ Day.
Provost DeHayes recommended leaving the official calendar as it is and having the faculty celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ Day on the Columbus Day holiday.
Senator Meenach informed the Senate that they are looking into shortening the exam period.
 3. Curriculum and Standards Committee Report [#2018-19-7, Appendices A-B](#) was presented by Senator Cardany and approved.
7. Chair Leonard asked if there was any unfinished business. There was none.
8. Chair Leonard asked if there were any New Business.
Senator Hicks inquired if the university wants to pursue the Indigenous Peoples’ Day.
Senator Ashley made a motion to refer the issue of Indigenous Peoples’ Day to the Service and Community Life Committee. The motion was approved.
Senator Aberdam inquired if it was the Senate’s business to address use and waste of plastic on campus.
Senator Ashley made a motion to refer the plastic issue to the Service and Community Life Committee. The motion was approved.
9. Chair Leonard asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 PM.