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## Faculty Senate Minutes March 21, 2019

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2019**

1. The Faculty Senate Meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM by Senate Chair Leonard. All members were present except for Senators Kovoov, Hume, Sartini, Anderson, Loose, Kincaid, Schneiderjans, DiTomasso, Chandlee, Sodhi, Greaney, DiCioccio, Schwegler, Boving, and Taveira.  
Ex-officio in attendance: President Dooley, Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Beauvais, Dean Zawia, Dean Boughida, Dean Larrat, Dean Riley, Associate Dean Veeger, Associate Dean Seitsinger, Senior Associate Director of Enrollment Services Humphrey, Student Government President Wilder, Student Government Vice President Morabito.
2. Disposition of Minutes: minutes of the Faculty Senate [Meeting #6 February 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.
3. **REPORT OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
  - a. Senate Chair Leonard thanked Dean Barbara Wolfe of the College of Nursing for sponsoring the reception after the Faculty Senate meeting and encouraged Senators and guests to attend
  - b. Activities of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Senate Vice Chair Nassersharif
    1. Senate Vice Chair Nassersharif presented the minutes of Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meetings of [February 14, 2019](#), [February 21, 2019](#), and [February 28, 2019](#). There were no comments.
    2. Senate Vice Chair Nassersharif announced the [Sheila Black Grubman Outstanding Service Award](#). The Deadline for the Award is April 3, 2019. The winner will be honored at the May 2, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting.
    3. Senate Vice Chair Nassersharif presented a proposed schedule of Faculty Senate meetings for the 2019-2020 academic year and recommended that the Senate adopt the dates:

September 12, 2019 New Senator “Boot Camp”	#5. January 23, 2020
#1. September 19, 2019	#6. February 20, 2020
#2. October 17, 2019	#7. March 19, 2020
#3. November 21, 2019	#8. April 16, 2020
#4. December 5, 2019	#9. May 7, 2020

He said that 'Senate Camp' (on Sept. 12, 2019) will not be an official meeting but an opportunity to become acquainted with Senate meeting procedures, parliamentary process, and ask Senators about their expectations.

#### 4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

a. The President spoke about the challenges of the upcoming budget negotiations to postsecondary education, especially URI. He said he is cautious concerning the next fiscal year but reiterated that there is considerable time ahead to improve the outlook for URI.

URI has begun to run an enrollment campaign focused in Rhode Island. The President invited Faculty Senators to contact him or the Provost with any questions and he will be happy to respond to questions and share new information.

Senator Rollo-Koster asked if there was a newly nominated Commissioner of Post-Secondary Education. The President responded no, that the Commissioner of Post-Secondary Education is Brenda Dann-Messier. There recently was a newly nominated RI Commissioner for Elementary and Secondary Education.

#### 5. REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES

a. **Graduate Council:** Dean Zawia presented Curricular [Report #2018-19-8](#) for changes to the part time Master of Business Administration program and a Master of Science in Finance with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) designation. The motion was seconded, and the report was approved. Dean Zawia also presented report [#2018-19-9](#) from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate for approval, a Communication track in MESM (Master of Environmental Science and Management) Senate Vice Chair Nassersharif asked is it a Master of Science program. Dean Zawia responded that it is a Master of Environmental Science and Management. Senator Rollo-Koster asked why the Communication track had been created. The Dean responded that there was a need that was specific to this discipline. The motion was seconded, and the report was approved.

**b. Joint Report of the Graduate School and the Curriculum and Standards Committee:** Dean Zawia of the Graduate Council and Senate Committee Chair Cardany of the Curriculum and Standards committee presented a joint report for approval. Senator Cardany requested the addition of "subplan" under the Recommendation section to read "The Graduate Council approved the proposal to create a new BA to PSM subplan, Bachelor of Arts to Professional Science Masters. With this change both reports were approved.

The first report presented for approval was Curricular Report [#2018-19-10](#) from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: Creation of an Accelerated Bachelor's of Arts to Master's degree program subplan for the Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science and the Professional Science Masters in Cyber Security. The program would allow students currently receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science to also complete a Professional Science Masters in Cyber Security (PSM) in just one extra year beyond the Bachelor's Degree. The motion was seconded and approved.

Dean Zawia and Senator Cardany also presented for approval Report [#2018-19-11](#) an Accelerated Bachelor's of Science to Master's Degree in Computer Science and Cyber Security (CSABM). The program would allow students currently receiving a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science to also complete a Professional Science Masters in Cyber Security (PSM) in just one extra year beyond the

Bachelor's Degree. The motion was seconded and approved. Senator Stolt of Natural Resources Science had questions regarding minors not being allowed to double count. He was ruled out of order and it was directed to bring this question up under New Business on the agenda.

**c. The Curriculum and Standards Committee Report** was presented by Committee Chair Senator Cardany.

1. Senator Cardany presented information on three temporary courses and five course changes to the Faculty Senate. In addition, Senator Cardany presented twenty-six course changes, forty-six new courses, one existing course and three new courses seeking General Education classification, and seven program changes for approval. Senator Ashley from the College of Business moved (and was seconded) that new course PRS 370, Sport Branding in the Digital Age, be severed from the report and returned to the C&S Committee until it has been vetted by the College of Business for overlap with currently offered marketing courses. As the syllabus was not sent to Business, they have had no opportunity to see if overlap exists. Senator Derbyshire commented that the Minor in Sports Media had been previously approved. The motion passed with three nays and 3 abstains. Senator Cardany also presented two programs for approval: a Special Education track in the Elementary Education major and the creation of a Music Therapy major in the Bachelor of Music degree program. The motion was seconded and approved. Senator Morokoff inquired if the new Music Therapy program would be advised under pre-health. Senator Cardany explained that it would not; it will be advised by the Music Department.

2. Subcommittee Chair Senator Meenach presented the report from the Academic Calendar Subcommittee and presented a revised Calendar for Fall 2020 for approval. In the revised Calendar, Election day and Veterans Day will not have classes and exam days will be reduced from six to 5 days. There will be a survey going out from the Committee in the next few days.

a. A motion to remove the requirement of weekday reading days came seconded by the subcommittee (committee [Report #2018-19-12](#)).

Vice Chair Senator Nassersharif asked why there was a requirement for a weekday reading day. Senator Meenach responded that it was to accommodate students who work during weekends. Motion carried and was approved to remove of the requirement of a weekday Reading Day during finals.

b. A motion to decrease the minimum of seven days to six days scheduled for final examinations Report( [#2018-19-12](#) ) came seconded from the subcommittee. The motion carried.

c. A motion came seconded from the subcommittee to approve the Revised 2020-21 Academic Calendar [Report #2018-19-9](#) which incorporates changes allowing for Veterans and Election day off.

Student Government President Wilding asked if classes meet on Columbus Day. Senator Meenach responded that Columbus Day typically does have classes. The motion carried and the calendar for 2020-2021 was approved.

**d. Senator Ashley Chair of the Service and Community Life Committee (SCL)** presented a report to the Faculty Senate explaining the mission of the Committee which supports the mission of the University by

studying and recommending policies to enhance effective faculty governance and oversight; the supportive and diverse nature of the URI community; and URI's engagement with the broader local, national and international community. She then spoke of several issues the committee has been working on over the past months, Indigenous People's Day, plastics on campus, and organizational culture. The committee chose to table the discussion of parking to avoid interference with the URI AAUP response to the Lot 30 Proposal.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. President remarked on the \$1.8M commitment from the State to develop "URI Online" and thanked Dean Jen Riley and the Director of Learning, Assessment and Online Teaching Dianne Goldsmith for their work on the project. This new venture will generate revenue for both the State and URI.
- b. The President thanked the Faculty Senate for working through issues to better compete in the marketplace. He believes the approval of the Accelerated Masters Programs will generate significant revenue expansion and growth.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. The issue of double counting in regard to Minors to Majors was brought up by Senator Stoltz who stated it is unfair to double count for the Accelerated Bachelor's to Masters and not for minors to majors. Senator Echevarria said it is a problem and a concern because students cannot count minor credits towards a major and creates issues with graduation and returning to complete a second major. It also does not mesh with the University Finish What You Started program. Senator Martin suggested encouraging students to speak with Advisors. Senator Derbyshire pointed out if you have received a minor you cannot use the courses for a major. Senator Honhart recommended that the Senate refer these issues back to the Curriculum and Standards Committee and the Committee who will review. Senator Echevarria asked if language can be referred to the Constitution, By-laws and University Manual (CBUM) Committee. A motion with a friendly amendment was made to refer to CBUM a request for the re-wording of paragraph 8.20.52 and counting courses for a major and minor to that Committee. Senior Associate Enrollment Services Director Humphrey responded that once a minor is listed on a transcript it cannot be taken away. It is a complicated issue because once an official document is put forth it cannot be changed. Senator Krieger asked to clarify what is meant by double counting. Senator Morokoff said the University Manual [Academic Requirements] 8.20.52 is not clear. Senator Cardany said her committee needs specific proposals from programs. Senator Stoltz said the minor in GIS and Soil Science are also part of concentrations. Senator Martin suggested striking the first sentence of the University Manual 8.20.52. . Senator Opaluch suggested a limit to the number of credits be decided. Senator Honhart said this may solve the problem but does not apply to students who want to come back. A motion was made and seconded to send the question of double counting concerning minors to majors section and 8.20.52 of the University Manual to CBUM. Senator Nassersharif said instructions to Committee seem like there is a sense it is too restrictive and asked that the Committee be directed to ease restrictions so that different programs can design minors as appropriate to their discipline. Senator Nassersharif offered an amendment for more flexibility for declaration of minors so that

more programs can participate. Senator Rollo-Koster felt that the department should decide how many credits can be double counted. Senator Derbyshire said this does not address the question of minor to major. Senior Associate Director Humphrey said major and minor graduation records are closed once a student has graduated. Opening a record by readmission and removing a previously posted minor may be problematic. In researching different models, some schools have moved away from minors. He said URI as an institution needs to determine what it wants to do. Senator Morokoff asked if there is a URI minor that overlaps with a major, a minor that completely overlaps with a major such as Computer Science (CSC) and Digital Forensics is that okay. Senator Martin, suggested major and minors should be distinctive. Senator Echevarria asked if certificates can be turned into a minor. Senior Associate Director Humphrey said they may build on them. A motion was made, seconded and approved to send to CBUM to review the language relating to courses counting in majors and minors to make it more flexible in 8.20.5 in the University Manual.

- b. Senator Gordon stated that while we are concerned about the academic health of students we also need to be concerned about their physical health. Senator Gordon brought up concerns regarding skate boarding incidents and injuries to students on campus and asked if helmets can be required. Senator Ruemmele said in reviewing the Student Handbook skateboarding is not allowed within thirty feet of a campus building and asked for enforcement. She also asked if students cannot skateboard, can they bike or roller-skate within proximity to buildings. There are two issues: banning skateboarding or require helmets. Senator Cardany suggested the Faculty Senate look at the issue and determine what can be done to help. Senator Echeverria asked if there should be a committee required to look into this. Provost DeHayes suggested an invitation be extended to the Public Safety Office for a briefing on the topic.

8. Chair Leonard asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4: 25 PM.