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Faculty Senate Minutes December 5, 2019

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Meeting #4 December 5, 2019 Minutes

1. **THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING** was called to order by Chair Nassersharif at 3:07 PM at the Beupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Science. All members were present except for: Senators Amin, Anderson, Ashley, Byrd, Chandlee, Chen, Cohen, Dekker, Gordon, Greaney, Haile, Hashemi, Loose, Meenach, Mok, Rogers, Schneiderjans, Sodhi, Taveira, and Wyatt. Ex-officio in attendance: President Dooley, Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Libutti, Vice Provost Veeger, Dean Riley, Dean Larrat, Associate Dean Sartini for Dean Kirby, Associate Dean Seitsinger, and Associate Director Humphrey. Others: Thomas McGrath, Christopher Bove, Leslie Mahler, Alycia Mosley Austin, Lisa Wyant, and Dan Sheinin.
2. **DISPOSITION OF MINUTES** of the Faculty Senate [Meeting # 3 November 21, 2019](#) minutes were posted with the agenda. The Senate Chair asked if there were any additions, corrections or questions on the minutes. As there were no corrections or questions, the minutes were approved.
3. **REPORT OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**
 - a. Announcements – The Senate Chair thanked Dean Wolfe and the College of Nursing for sponsoring the post meeting reception. He urged members to attend, and reminded meeting participants to sign-in.
 - b. Activities of the Executive Committee – Vice-Chair Echevarria presented Minutes of Executive Committee Meetings, [November 15, 2019](#) for notice. There were no questions or comments.
4. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**
 - a. Announcements: The President reported he has been working with the Governor's office on potential nominees for the new URI Board of Trustees. The new Board of Trustees is legislated to go into effect by February 1st. The Senior leadership team has been organizing materials for the new Board of Trustees on policies and procedures, and best practices so they can assimilate and develop their own policies, procedures, and processes.
5. **REPORTS**
 - a. Director Dicioccio provided an [Update on Office of Innovation in General Education](#) on Office of Innovation in General Education and shared "fun facts." In the past year, 61 new general education courses of which 11 were Grand Challenge courses were approved.
 - b. Director Derbyshire delivered an [Update on the Honors Program](#), which works with undergraduates, fellowships, and pre-health students. The Honors Colloquium for 2020 will be on Disability and Empowerment. They are currently accepting proposals for Fall 2021. May 1st, 2020 is the date of the 22nd Annual Honors Project Poster Presentations.

- c. Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Libutti gave an [Enrollment Update](#). Current enrollment is 17,629, which includes 2931 graduate. Due to collective efforts, the first-year retention rate has increased to 85.9%

6. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Graduate Council: Graduate Council Chair, Colleen Mouw presented the [Graduate Council Report, Appendices A-I](#), which was approved unanimously. Discussion ensued concerning the inclusion of more specific language regarding Accelerated Bachelors to Masters (ABM) programs.
 - b. Faculty Senate: Senator Hicks Chair of the Constitution and By-law Committee (CBUM) presented URI [Manual Bylaw Changes](#) from the Academic Calendar Sub-Committee, which were voted on and approved.
7. **OLD BUSINESS:** Chair Nassersharif asked of there was any unfinished old business. There was none.
8. **NEW BUSINESS:** Chair Nassersharif asked of there was any new business. Kathleen Torrens gave an update on key dates for the implementation of Brightspace, which will be available in the coming Spring 2020. Beginning in January all new URI online accelerated programs will be offered in Brightspace. Forty-two faculty will participate in the pilot. Training will be widely available in February. There is a mobile app for Brightspace and further information can be found at www.uri.edu/brightspace.
9. **ADJOURNMENT** There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 5 PM.