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Faculty Senate Minutes February 20, 2020

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Meeting #6
February 20, 2020 Minutes**

1. **THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING** was called to order by Chair Nassersharif at 3:03 PM at the Beaupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Science. All members were present except for Senator Ashley, Blanpied, Byrd, Chen, Donohue, Gordon, Haile, Hashemi, Hatfield, Kolbe, Leatham, Meenach, Mok, Rogers, Sendag, Sodhi, Sproul, Villa Nichols, Vyas, Wyatt. Ex Officio in attendance: Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Veeger, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Libutti, Chief Information Office Kaugars, Dean Corliss. Also, in attendance: Associate Dean DeBoef, Director Academic Enhancement Center Burgess.
2. **DISPOSITION OF MINUTES** of the Faculty Senate Meeting # 5 January 23, 2020 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 the Graduate School of Oceanography for hosting the reception following this meeting.
 - b. Activities of the Executive Committee – Vice-Chair Echevarria presented the Minutes of Executive Committee Meetings #27, December 19, 2019, #28 January 22, 2020, #29 January 29 and 31, 2020, and #30 February 5, 2020, for notice. Senator Mike Rice asked about the status of support staff once URI has a board of trustees – some staff members are worried that they will no longer be state employees. Vice-Chair Echevarria replied that this question has been brought to President Dooley, and he is confident that there will not be a change, but that answer is not yet final. The status of faculty will not change.
 - c. Recommendations of the Executive Committee – Senate Vice-Chair Echevarria called upon Senator Kristine Bovy to present the slate for election of Faculty Senate Vice Chair/Chair-elect for the 2020-2021 academic year. Senator Bovy announced that the candidates selected by the Nominating Committee are Senator Rice and Senator Cardany. There were no additional nominations put forth and ballots were distributed to Faculty Senate members. After voting concluded, Senator Cardany was confirmed as the Vice Chair/Chair-elect. Follow-up elections will be held in April. Senator Rice received thanks for running.
4. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**
 - a. The Provost attended on behalf of the President and reported on the status of the newly-created URI Board of Trustees (BOT). He said that the first 12 trustees have been through the advice and consent process in the Rhode Island State Senate and have been confirmed. The individuals chosen are very positive about their experiences with URI. There are five more trustees still to be confirmed, and then the first meeting will be in mid-April. We will ensure that the Faculty Senate has the meeting dates as they are finalized. Faculty Senate members are encouraged to attend the meetings and participate. The Board of Trustees will likely meet 4-5 times per year and the Provost and Chair Nassersharif are discussing how it will affect the Faculty Senate approval process. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has submitted names for a faculty member and a student member for the BOT. Student Senate President Nick Marotta asked if there is an application that students can fill out to be considered – there is not as yet, but President Dooley will ask the student senate to submit a list of names. Graduate Student president Jacqui Britto asked if there would be a

graduate student representative. Provost DeHayes clarified that there will be only one representative from the student body.

- b. Provost DeHayes called upon Senator Mead; he said that a group of administrators and faculty are considering holding a faculty forum on the topic of smart phones as a help or hindrance to student learning in classes – he asked for a show of hands of those interested in this topic and many hands were raised. Senator Honhart said that Prof. Mead will be asked to discuss this with the Faculty Senate Technology Committee.
- c. Provost DeHayes said that the governor’s proposed budget is now before the legislature. URI will work to increase our share in the state appropriations budget, if possible. If there turns out to be a shortfall for FY21 (which is unknown at this time) we hope to tighten our belts with regard to the budget without making drastic cuts.

5. REPORT OF THE TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Senator Honhart presented the report of the Faculty Senate Technology and Infrastructure Committee. Points of focus are faculty representation on the IT Governance Committee and engaging with CIO Karlis Kaugars. See complete report [here](#):

Senator Martin asked CIO Kaugars to explain why we are replacing PeopleSoft. He explained that PeopleSoft is due to become obsolete in 2030, and that we must plan well in advance to replace it.

6. PRESENTATION ON THE ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT CENTER

Director of the Academic Enhancement Center, Jennifer Burgess, presented information about the goals and activities of the Center. See the complete presentation [here](#):

Questions and discussion followed. In response to questions Director Burgess said that the Center is developing an opt-in training for Graduate teaching assistants; they hope to expand their concentration from the STEM subjects in future; and that they are currently at maximum capacity in their office space.

7. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Graduate Council Curricular Report: Associate Dean Brenton DeBoef presented the course changes as shown in Graduate Curricular Report #2019-20-8, first the informational changes followed by the changes requiring confirmation. He noted that there are almost twice as many changes as the previous year, particularly because a full program is moving from one college to another. After discussion, all changes requiring action were approved with the exception of:

- The proposed changes to the Nursing MS and DNP Programs will be sent back to the committee for clarification.
- AMS 528 will be tabled.

Curriculum and Standards Committee and Graduate Council Joint Report: : Chair Cardany and Associate Dean DeBoef presented 4 new Accelerated Bachelor to Master (ABM) degree programs. After discussion, the ABM proposals for Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kinesiology, Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, and Political Science were approved.

Curriculum and Standards Committee: Chair Cardany presented 54 curricular matters requiring confirmation by the Faculty Senate. All were approved

Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee: Chair Hicks presented report 2019-2020-3 on Revised University Manual Language on the Graduate School and Graduate Council. The revisions were approved.

8. **OLD BUSINESS:** Chair Nassersharif asked if there was any unfinished old business. There was none.
9. **NEW BUSINESS:** Chair Nassersharif asked if there was any new business. There was none.
10. **ADJOURNMENT** There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.