

3-19-2020

## Faculty Senate Minutes March 19, 2020

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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### Recommended Citation

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "Faculty Senate Minutes March 19, 2020" (2020). *Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes*. Paper 79.

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**URI FACULTY SENATE MEETING #7 MINUTES**  
**(Held Electronically via WebEx)**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2020**

1. **THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING** was called to order by Chair Nassersharif at 3:02 PM. Chair Nassersharif welcomed everyone and thanked them for their patience as the Faculty Senate is trying a new meeting delivery format. He explained the meeting process and introduced Vice Chair Echevarria who will monitor the Chat for questions from the floor and Senator Gindy will cover the voting process.

All members were present except for: Senator Hatfield.

Ex-officio in attendance: President Dooley, Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Libutti, Vice Provost Veeger, Vice Provost Ako-Adounvo, VP Rider, VP Collins, Dean Riley, Dean Ebrahimpour, Dean Zawia, CIO Kaugars, Dean Liguori, Dean Wolfe, Dean Richmond, Associate Dean Quilliam, Associate Dean DeBoef, Senior Associate Director Humphrey, Director Rogers-Estable, and Director Almandrez.

2. **DISPOSITION OF MINUTES** of the Faculty Senate Meeting of February 20, 2020 were postponed.

3. **REPORT OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**  
Chair Nassersharif turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Echevarria.

Activities of the Executive Committee –

- a. Activities of the Executive Committee – Vice-Chair Echevarria presented the Minutes of Executive Committee – [#31 February 12, 2020](#), [#32, February 29, 2020](#), and [#33, February 26, 2020](#) for notice. There were no questions or comments.
- b. Announcements of the Executive Committee:
  - i. Nominations are being sought for the [Sheila Grubman Award](#). This Award recognizes service to a member of the URI Faculty who has consistently dedicated time, thought, and energy and made important contributions that promote the interests of the University and University community as a whole. More information is available on the Faculty Senate website.
  - ii. Nominations are also being sought for the [Fritz Wenisch Memorial Award](#). The Award will recognize Senators who go above and beyond for the Senate and the Senate Committees.
  - iii. Vice Chair Echevarria presented the [Faculty Senate Meeting schedule for the 20-21](#) academic year.

4. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

- a. President Dooley discussed course delivery for the summer sessions and the impact of the pandemic on those terms. The President said he will have further remarks during the COVID-19 Forum.
- b. Status of Actions Forwarded to the President after February 20, 2020:

- Bill #19-20-18B Curricular Report #2019-20-8 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: Curricular Change. Approved by President Dooley on February 28, 2020.
- Bill #19-20-19 Joint Report of the Curriculum and Standards and Graduate Council Report #2019-20-1 to the Faculty Senate: Abbreviated Bachelors/Masters Programs. Approved by President Dooley on February 28, 2020.
- Bill #19-20-20B Curriculum and Standards Committee Report #2019-20-8: Curricular Proposals. Approved by President Dooley on February 28, 2020.

## 5. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Graduate Council: Associate Graduate School Dean DeBoef presented Graduate Council Curricular Report No. 2019-20-9 with Appendices A-D. Votes were taken and the Reports were approved.
- Committee Chair Senator Cardany of the Curriculum and Standards Committee presented the Faculty Senate Curriculum and Standards Committee [Report 2019-2020-09 with Appendices A-F](#). Three votes were taken on 33 course changes including new course codes for the College of Business, eleven new courses, three program changes and one new program (Professional Leadership Studies major). Votes were taken and the Reports were approved.

## 6. FORUM ON URI RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 moderated by Faculty Senate Chair Nassersharif (for WebEx recording see also <https://web.uri.edu/facsen/>).\*

- President Dooley thanked everyone working together through the myriad of COVID-19 issues. Students will continue to be instructed remotely and not asked to return to campus. They have been working on the summer sessions possibly all sessions will be offered remotely. Vice President of Student Affairs Kathy Collins has been working on “move out” days that will avoid large crowds. Housing and dining will not close completely to accommodate those students who cannot return to their homes. Dining services offering takeout options and student housing will be consolidated. Research operations will continue. All nonessential animal studies will be postponed. Graduate level clinical rotations will continue. The President said there will be more discussions ahead and asked for the best efforts to continue instruction through the semester.
- Provost DeHayes acknowledged the University faculty, the Faculty Senate and the AAUP leadership, and ATL and ITS. He understands it is a heavy lift on many levels. He suggested keeping it simple, dialog frequently with students, convey calm and be patient, flexible and encouraging. Departments are requested to send requests for teaching resources to their Dean’s office. This can include, hardware, software, with the rationale. The requests will be dealt with in an expedited fashion. During this time Provost DeHayes, in an effort to support faculty and afford faculty academic protection and give support with the use of new technologies, will suspend the use of IDEA in classes with the cooperation of the AAUP. They will extend the probation period for pre tenure track faculty by one year to allow focus to make the transition to support students. Provost DeHayes requested that faculty reach out to students and ask about the challenges they face to see if students need our support.

- c. Vice Provost, Academic & Faculty Initiatives Veeger has convened a Remote Teaching and Learning Task Force from across the university. They have been meeting three times a week to brainstorm ideas and facilitate communication with faculty. The Task force has a link on the Provost's website (<https://web.uri.edu/provost/>).
- d. Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Libutti updated the gathering on enrollments heading into Fall 20 with early deposits increasing over last year but now the expectation is for them to slow down. All in person visits of prospective students have been cancelled. There has been an increase in the use of texts, chats, and virtual events and tours of the campus to drive growth in enrollments. Continuing student registration began this week, Vice Provost thanked faculty and advisors for their assistance. . The emergency crisis call center has continued to be available to assist students through this crisis,
- e. Vice President of the Division of Student Affairs Collins thanked those gathered and those that have been involved in bringing students home said she was proud to be part of the senior leadership team. The call Center is up and running receiving at one point over 300 phone calls within twenty minutes. She thanked the hourly staff who work on campus. Her office is sending out daily updates. Counseling is moving to telehealth during this crisis. Staff and disability resources are working with students and she reminded faculty to use closed captioning. She thanked everyone and encouraged kindness.
- f. Chief Information Officer Kaugars remarked how amazing it has been with everyone working together. He gave a status update: there are seventeen daily training opportunities, with six hundred fifty faculty and staff already participating. If anyone has questions regarding IT resources, answers are available by googling URI IT Services (<https://web.uri.edu/itservicedesk/>). Resources are available on the site for faculty staff and students. The IT Service Desk is still maintained but modality may change to web, email, or WebEx in the future. There are six different spaces fully equipped with technology available throughout campus to record classes. Contact them if interested.
- g. Director of the Office for the Advancement of Teaching & Learning Goldsmith remarked that it has been a stressful week for faculty and staff. They have been working with ITS on updating and augmenting ATL website (<https://web.uri.edu/atl/>). There are linked resources available on the ATL website and a joint ITS/ATL calendar. There will be more workshops next week focused on assessment. Director Goldsmith suggested that faculty should think differently about final exams thinking of them as assessments and what can be done remotely. Added document on website on assessment. There will be Brightspace drop-ins. Brightspace mentors in each of the colleges. The Brightspace FAQ's will be updated daily (<https://web.uri.edu/brightspace/>). She would be happy to talk to faculty on issues. Director Goldsmith is proud of everyone who has gone through technology training especially with limited bandwidth. Impressed with caring and creativity of faculty.
- h. Director of IT Teaching & Learning Rogers-Estable said she started at the University one and half weeks ago. There are both pros and cons to only being at the University such a short time. She is happy to see all the faculty innovation. She encouraged using Relay (<https://web.uri.edu/brightspace/relay-for-lecture-capture/>) rather than YouTube which is discouraged. Relay in Brightspace protects student privacy, is internal and streams

using compressed bandwidth which is important for students with limited bandwidth. They are also doing training on Google Apps for education (<https://web.uri.edu/its-training/google-apps-for-education/>) and Office 365. There are many [resources](#) and training available on the ITS website. One is Virtual Faculty Café a virtual faculty lounge, created by and for faculty and staff at URI, to chat about teaching with technology ideas, sharing resources, and provide support to meet the needs of students in remote learning contexts (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/URIChatCafe/>). Director Rogers-Estable said she if there are other tools faculty may need and she is always available to assist- just reach out.

- i. Vice Provost for Global Initiatives, Ako-Adounvo Assistant Director Global reported that a level 4 has been issued by US Department of State which means “Do Not Travel” with the main component the US Government asking that everyone who is a US citizen or resident consider returning to US and having travel plans that do not rely on US government for travel back to the United States. URI had two hundred and four students abroad. Her office will focus now on bringing the twenty percent remainder of students back to the United States. For faculty that wanted to travel it’s do not travel. It’s about the pandemic and not to spread it. She thanked the faculty with all they do.
- j. Question & answer along with chat record have been forwarded to the Teaching and Learning Task Force.

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

Chair Nassersharif asked if there was any unfinished old business. There was none.

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

Chair Nassersharif asked if there was any unfinished old business. There was none.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was seconded. There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

