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Faculty Senate Minutes November 19, 2020

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Meeting #3 Thursday, November 19, 2020

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Faculty Senate President Echevarria called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM. All senators were in attendance except for: Senators Akanda, Amin, Blanpied, Burroughs, Haile, Hatfield, Preisser, Schniederjans, Theim, and Xu. Ex Officio members in attendance included: President Dooley, Vice President Ako-Adounvo, Vice President Collins, Vice President Rider, Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Libutti, Vice Provost Veeger, Interim Dean DeBoef, Dean Ebrahimpour, Dean Rolle, Associate Dean Reynolds for Dean Riley, Associate Dean Sartini for Dean Kirby, Associate Dean Smith for Dean Bontempi, and Student Academic Chair Thomas McGrath for Student Senate President Ramsay. Others present: Director Goldsmith, Associate Director Humphrey.
2. **DISPOSITION OF MINUTES** Senate President Echevarria announced that the minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting # 2 of October 15, 2020, had been posted with the agenda. She asked if there were any proposed additions, corrections, comments, or questions. There were none. President Echevarria ruled that, in the absence of any corrections or changes, the minutes were approved.
3. **REPORT OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
 - a. **Announcements and Welcome Remarks** – Senate President Echevarria welcomed Senators and guests to the Faculty Senate’s third meeting. FS President applauded the extensive efforts by faculty to support student needs and success with compassion. During this difficult time, faculty from across all colleges have set aside their own personal needs and professional ambitions in order to show empathy for our students and a remarkable level of commitment to addressing student needs, by adapting courses materials, modifying course assessment strategies, providing extensions to deadlines and adjusting grading scales. The FS President is proud to be part of the URI community, where the community has come together to work as effectively as possible for the common good.
 - b. **Activities of the Executive Committee** –
 - i. [Minutes of Executive Committee Meetings](#) – October 7, 14, 21, and 28, November 4, 2020, were presented by Senate Vice President Cardany and noticed.
 - ii. Senate Vice President Cardany presented the [Special Committee for Curricular Committee Structure Refinement Report](#). The report recommends changing the Faculty Senate’s committee structure by making the General Education Committee a stand-alone full committee (that retains a formal relationship with the Curriculum and Standards Committee), and also making the Academic Calendar Committee a full standing committee. As part of this proposal, the

number of committee members will change for a number of Senate Standing committees. These modifications require formal changes to the Faculty Senate By-Laws. There was a question from the Senate floor regarding course releases for the committees' Chairs due to the additional required committee service such as JCAP. Not every Senator has been permitted to exercise their right to workload adjustments stipulated in the University Manual.

iii. Recommendations of the Executive Committee – Senate Vice President Cardany provided the first reading of [motions from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee](#) to change the Faculty Senate By-Laws, in response to the report and recommendations of the Special Committee for Curricular Committee Structure Refinement. The second reading and Senate vote will occur at the Faculty Senate meeting on December 10, 2020. The Senate President thanked Vice President Cardany and the committee for their work and leadership.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

a. **Announcements** The President thanked the FS President. He reported that the new Board of Trustees (BOT) structure is proceeding well, and he anticipates it to continue to run smoothly, efficiently, and expeditiously. The President thanked everyone, especially faculty and also all those employees working in housing, dining, and health services for all of the extraordinary efforts that have contributed to the numerous successes associated with this semester. President Dooley commended students whose responsible behavior and excellent decisions have made it possible for our campus to remain open up until now. Some did not think URI would be able to continue with in-person instruction until such a late date in the semester and many believed we would be compelled to pivot abruptly to online learning much earlier. He congratulated all on a semester well done. He highlighted that substantial work has already begun preparing for the J-erm and the Spring semester so that we may ensure the same levels of success next semester. The President expressed his high level of confidence in the University community as we look ahead.

b. **Status of Actions Pending Approval After the October 15, 2020, Faculty Senate Meeting:**

BILL #20-21-3 Recommendation of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Revisions to University Manual By-Laws Section 7. Approved November 3, 2020. **BILL #20-21-4B** Curricular and Standards Committee Report #2020-2021-1: Program Changes. Approved November 3, 2020.

BILL #20-21-5 Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee Report #2020-21-1: Proposal to Change Titles of Faculty Senate Officers, Revisions to University Manual Chapters 2, 5, 8; Appendices B and C. Approved November 3, 2020.

BILL #20-21-4C Curricular and Standards Committee Report #2020-2021-1: New

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Interdisciplinary Minor in Social Justice and Civic Responsibilities. Approved subject to Notification to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees.

5. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Vice Provost of Enrollment Management Libutti provided a [report on Enrollment Management](#). Applications for fall 2020 reached an all-time high of 23,856. Total URI enrollment for the fall semester is 17,671, with URI meeting its enrollment goals and exceeding transfer targets due to a wide variety of efforts involving faculty, staff and administrators from across the institution. There were over 110 online webinars, chats, and events in April in addition to texting campaigns, emails, admission Instagram and social media events. Everyone has been working hard to retain our currently enrolled students and to attract new students to join our community.
- b. Budget & Financial Planning Director Barrett provided a presentation on the URI [Budget](#) for FY21 and FY22. The budget request for FY 21 is \$813M. The budget situation remains uncertain due to the fact that the State Legislature has still not yet finalized State Appropriations for FY2021. It is expected that the legislature will approve the state budget in December or January. The URI budget request for FY22 is \$844.9M.

6. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Senator Roman, Chair of the Research and Creative Activities Committee, provided an update on the committee's plans for the 20-21 academic year. Senator Eaton is the Chair of the Center Review Subcommittee, and Senator Erickson-Owens is the Chair of the Competitive Grants Subcommittee. Senator Eaton and her committee have been identifying Centers which are still in existence and updating the Center application and reporting process. Manual language may need to be revised and Centers omitted. They will send CBUM proposed manual language changes. Senator Roman has met with the Controller's office regarding the Overhead Report. Based on these conversations, they will revise the Overhead report to make it more useful for Faculty.
- b. Interim Graduate School Dean DeBoef presented the [Graduate Council Curricular Report No. 2020-21-1](#), which was approved.
- c. Senator Kincaid, Chair of the Curriculum and Standards Committee, presented [Reports No. 2020-21-2](#), [Appendices A-E](#), and [Report No. 2020-2021-3](#), [Appendix A](#), which were approved.
 - i. Senator Mead, Chair of the General Education Subcommittee, presented [Report No. 2020-21-1](#) and [Report No. 20-21-2](#), which were approved.
 - ii. Senator Meyerson, Chair of the Academic Calendar Subcommittee, presented [Report No. 2020-21-1](#) and [Report No. 20-21-2](#), which were approved. During

her report, there was a motion to extend the meeting time by 15 minutes and it was approved.

7. OLD BUSINESS

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FS President Echevarria asked if there was any Old Business. There was none.

8. NEW BUSINESS

FS President Echevarria asked if there was any New Business. There was a motion to extend the meeting time to 5:30 PM, which was approved.

The Student Senate (SS) Academic Affairs Committee Chair, Thomas McGrath, asked to be recognized. SS Chair McGrath requested that the Faculty Senate consider a Student Senate resolution for an alternative grading option for this fall semester. He said it would be impactful for students suffering and struggling with health, housing, personal, and food issues. FS President Echevarria reported that the FSEC has engaged in thoughtful discussions to determine what is best for the common good and explained the process, which led up to the sole instance of the use of the sweeping measure implemented for the spring 2020 semester. While the fall semester has been challenging, it is very different from the spring semester. It was suggested that other solutions need to be studied. There was a question about the possibility of calling a special Faculty Senate meeting to consider this issue.

9. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 5:32 PM.

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