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## Faculty Senate Minutes December 10, 2020

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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## Faculty Senate Meeting #4 December 10, 2020

### Minutes

1. **CALL TO ORDER OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING** – Faculty Senate (FS) President Echevarria called the Faculty Senate meeting to order at 3:06 PM following the General Faculty and Graduate Faculty meeting. All Senators were present except for Senators Akanda, Amin, Blanpied, Haile, Hatfield, LaLuna, Leatham, Lee, Meyerson, Mok, Rarick, Sendag, Sheinin, Theim, Xu, and Zhang. Ex Officio members in attendance: President Dooley, Vice President Student Affairs Collins, Vice President, Research and Economic Development Snyder, Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Libutti, Vice Provost Veeger, Assistant Strickland for Vice Provost Ado-Akounova, Interim Dean DeBoef, Assistant Dean Mosley-Austin, Dean Graney, Dean Riley, Associate Dean Smith for Dean Bontempi, Associate Dean Leveillee for Dean Wolf, and Student Senator McGrath for Student Senate President Ramsay.  
Others in attendance: Associate Vice President Student Affairs Ciccomascolo, Associate Dean Arts & Sciences Reynolds, Associate Director of Enrollment Services Humphrey, Assistant Director Summer & JTerm Sessions Olerio, URI Foundation President O'Rourke, Ombudsman Tyler, Graduate Assistants United Representative Dirocco.
2. **DISPOSITION OF MINUTES** Senate President Echevarria announced that the minutes of [Faculty Senate Meeting #3 November 19, 2020](#), and [Special Faculty Senate Meeting November 25, 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 corrections or changes, the minutes were approved.
3. **REPORT OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
  - a. **Announcements and Welcome Remarks** – Faculty Senate President Echevarria thanked all for attending the term's fourth Faculty Senate meeting. In response to the powerful testimonies on housing and food insecurity heard during the Faculty Senate Special Meeting, President Echevarria highlighted important resources available to assist students. She discussed the food and essential items available at the Rhody Outpost food pantry, highlighting the fact that it is open to all URI students and relies on community members' generous donations to remain fully stocked. She also mentioned the Student First Fund which provides additional emergency support to URI students with demonstrated financial need, noting that in the recent past the fund had been used to provide students with

emergency rental assistance, food purchases, and meal cards for URI dining facilities. In the season of gratitude, reflection, and giving, FS President Echevarria urged faculty and community members in a position of being able to contribute to these important initiatives to please consider making donations to the Rhody Outpost and/or the Student First Fund. She provided information on how to make donations remotely and stated that the information on both of these opportunities for supporting our students would be available on the Faculty Senate website.

- b. **Activities of the Executive Committee** – Senate Vice President Cardany
  - i. [Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting](#) of November 12, 2020, were presented by Senate Vice President Cardany and asked if there were any questions. There were none.
- c. **Recommendations of the Executive Committee** – Senate Vice President Cardany
  - i. Vice President Cardany presented the second reading of the motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to change the [Faculty Senate By-Laws](#) to reflect the [Special Committee for Curricular Committee Structure Refinement](#) recommendations, which was approved.

#### 4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

##### a. **Announcements** –

President Dooley provided a report on the 2021 budget, which was approved by the RI Legislature. Despite a challenging year, President Dooley was pleased that the budget did not include any unanticipated reductions. He reported that the 2022 budget, which is \$1M less than expected, will go to the Budget Council for review. President Dooley underscored assurances received from State officials about their firm commitment to prioritize replacing monies that have been removed from the URI base budget over these most recent cycles and doing so as soon as possible. As with other colleges and universities, an important priority for URI will be retention and enrollment for spring 2021 and fall 2021. The President remarked that he was happy to share that a State of Rhode Island special election will occur on March 2, 2021, to vote on bonds. Among the bonds under consideration by the voters will be the RI Arts Community bond, which includes \$57,3M for the URI Fine Arts building. He urged everyone to get out to vote. The President reported that robust COVID-19 testing will continue to occur on campus, and results will be closely monitored to enable students to return to campus safely.

**b. Status of Actions Pending Approval after the November 19, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting and the November 23, 2020 Special Meeting of the Faculty Senate:**

- i. **Bill 20-21-6B**, Curricular Report #2020-21-1 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: Curricular Proposals. Approved December 1, 2020
- ii. **Bill 20-21-6C**, Curricular Report #2020-21-1 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: Online Graduate Certificate in GIS and Geospatial Technologies. Approved December 1, 2020
- iii. **Bill 20-21-7B**, Curricular and Standards Committee Report #2020-2021-2: Program Changes. Approved December 1, 2020
- iv. **Bill 20-21-8B**, Curricular and Standards Committee Report #2020-2021-3: New Program, Creation of a Business Analytics and Intelligence Minor. Approved December 1, 2020
- v. **Bill 20-21-11**, Academic Calendar Subcommittee Report #20-21-1: Academic Calendar for 2026-2027. Approved December 1, 2020
- vi. **Bill 20-21-12**, Academic Calendar Subcommittee Report #20-21-2: Revisions to Accelerated Online Calendar 2021-2022 through 2023-2024. Approved December 1, 2020
- vii. **Bill 20-21-13**, Faculty Senate Executive Committee recommendation to expand access to the Second Grade Option to all students for the entirety of the 2020-2021 academic year. Approved December 1, 2020

**5. PRESENTATION**

- a. Senator and Honors Program Director Derbyshire gave an annual [Report on the Honors Program](#). The program has carried out significant efforts to actively recruit first-generation and Pell-eligible students. Director Derbyshire highlighted how instrumental the presence of representative faculty of color has been to increasing the number of and supporting the success of students of color in the Honors program. In terms of diversity metrics, the Honors program currently outpaces the University as a whole, demonstrating that efforts to increase diversity and inclusion can have a positive impact on academic excellence. Director Derbyshire highlighted the achievements of the three distinct divisions of the Honors Program: the Honors Program, the National Fellowships Program, and the Pre-Health Professions Advising Program, applauding the outstanding work of her colleagues who support students' short- and long-term success so effectively.

**6. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- a. Interim Dean DeBoef presented the Graduate Council Report Graduate Council Curricular [Report #2020-2021-2](#), which was approved.
  - b. Interim Dean DeBoef and Senator Kincaid presented the Joint Report of the Curriculum and Standards Committee and the Graduate Council [#2020-2021-1](#), which was approved.
  - c. Senator Kincaid, Chair, presented the Curriculum and Standards Committee [Report No. 2020-2021-4](#), [Appendices A-E](#), which were approved, with the exception of one item. There was a motion seconded and approved to remove from the report a proposal to change the title and course description of a course from the College of Environment and Life Sciences. It was sent back to the Curriculum and Standards Committee to address the question of overlap in the College of Arts and Sciences.
  - d. Senator Mead, Chair, presented the General Education Subcommittee [Report No. 2020-2021-3](#), which was approved. Chair Mead also described the General Education Subcommittee's goals to identify courses dealing with anti-racism and climate change. He welcomed contributions to the committee's work in these areas. Chair Mead also highlighted the fact that the Committee had also identified a benefit of the new CMS of allowing students to search for courses by outcome.
7. **OLD BUSINESS** President Echevarria asked if there was any Old Business. There was none.
8. **NEW BUSINESS** President Echevarria asked if there was any New Business. Hearing none, President Echevarria reminded Senators of how to make donations to the Rhody Outpost and the Student First Fund during this season of giving.
9. **ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM.