

1-28-2021

Faculty Senate Minutes January 28, 2021

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_min

Recommended Citation

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "Faculty Senate Minutes January 28, 2021" (2021). *Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes*. Paper 87.

https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_min/87

This Meeting Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons-group@uri.edu.

Faculty Senate Meeting #5 January 28, 2021

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING** – Faculty Senate (FS) President Echevarria called the Faculty Senate meeting to order at 3:01 PM. All Senators were present except for Senators Amin, Chen, Leatham, Mok, Sperdelozzi, Villa Nicholas, and Zhang. Ex Officio members in attendance: President Dooley, Vice President Snyder, Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Libutti, Vice Provost Veeger, Assistant to the Provost Stricklin for Vice Provost Ako-Adounvo, Dean Boughida, Associate Dean Smith for Dean Bontempi, Interim Dean DeBoef, Dean Ebrahimpour, Dean Kirby, Dean Richmond, Dean Riley, Dean Wolf, Dean Riley, and Senator McGrath for Student Senate President Ramsay. Others in attendance, Dean Graney, Associate Vice President Ciccomascolo, Assistant Dean Boisclair, Assistant Dean Mosley-Austin, Associate Dean Krueger, Associate Dean Leveillee, Associate Dean Sartini, Director Goldsmith, and Associate Director Humphrey.
2. **DISPOSITION OF MINUTES** Faculty Senate (FS) President Echevarria announced that the [Minutes for the Faculty Senate Meeting on December 10, 2020](#) had been posted with the agenda. The FS President 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** – FS President Echevarria provided an update on the current needs of the Rhody Outpost, thanking faculty for their donations in December. She reported that URI Food and Housing Security Coordinator Safie Sagna confirmed the important impact of donations received after the December Faculty Senate meeting. Due to the community’s generosity, the Rhody Outpost no longer has an urgent need for any specific items. President Echevarria thanked the faculty for their generous support, underscoring that the Outpost continues to accept donations and that ongoing support and donations will be critical as the semester unfolds.

The FS President also recognized and thanked Provost DeHayes, Special Assistant to the Provost Morrissey, and the entire planning team on the successful 2021 Academic Summit. She encouraged faculty to continue this essential work and to consider participating in activities throughout the semester that relate directly to the Academic Summit, which include book groups, discussions groups, CED initiatives, and the upcoming CED climate survey. She mentioned that one of the recurring topics throughout summit presentations and conversations related to recruiting and retaining diverse faculty and staff, and noted that accurate demographic data is critical to tracking and measuring change and progress in this area. To that end, President Echevarria urged

faculty to connect to the Human Resources portal of e-campus (which is different from the academic portal faculty usually use) to confirm that their demographic information is accurate.

President Echevarria reminded the community that the state will hold a special election on March 2 for important bond issues. She urged faculty to vote yes on question 1, a higher education bond measure for renovation projects at URI, RIC and CCRI, with more than half of the funds aimed at financing the completion of the URI Fine Arts building renovation.

- b. Activities of the Executive Committee** – Senate Vice President Cardany announced that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meetings’ minutes were available on the Faculty Senate website. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.
- c. Recommendations of the Executive Committee** – Senate Vice President Cardany presented for Senate approval a motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to approve the nomination of three Senators to serve on the Nominating Committee: .Senators Greaney, Morokoff, and Sodhi. The motion was approved. The Nominating Committee will present nominees for Vice President-elect at the February Faculty Senate meeting and nominees for vacancies on the FS Executive Committees at the May Faculty Senate meeting.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

- a. Announcements** – President Dooley noted important changes since the last Faculty Senate meeting in December. Once Governor Raimondo is confirmed and sworn in as the Secretary of Commerce in the Biden administration, Rhode Island will have a new governor. He reported that URI has a strong and positive relationship with Lieutenant Governor McKee. The President is looking forward to working with him on economic, business, and research development and plans to meet with him soon.

The President remarked briefly on the FY 22 Budget, which will likely be introduced in mid-March, and underscored continued uncertainty due to the status of national debates about a new stimulus package for economic relief.

President Dooley also mentioned the special statewide election that will be held on March 2, 2021. The seven referenda questions involve authorizing the state to borrow money through bonds and temporary notes to make capital investments. The bonds are part of a significant economic stimulus plan for Rhode Island. Leading up to the March 2nd election, the URI Foundation is funding a “Vote Yes on 1” campaign. Question 1 will fund building projects at CCRI, RIC, and the next phase of the Fine Arts building at URI. According to the President, “the \$57.3 M Fine Arts next phase is a more dramatic

gleaming glass building symbolizing, across Upper College Road, the breadth of URI, from Engineering to Fine Arts”.

- b. **Status of Actions** Pending Approval After the December 10, 2020, Faculty Senate Meeting: all Bills sent to the President were approved.

Bill #20-21-14: Recommendation of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Recommendations of the Special Committee for Curricular Committee Structure Refinement. Approved December 21, 2020.

Bill #20-21-15: Curricular Report #2020-21-2 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: Curricular Proposals. Approved December 21, 2020.

Bill #20-21-16: Joint Report of the Curriculum and Standards and Graduate Council Report #2020-21-1, to the Faculty Senate: Abbreviated Bachelors/Masters Programs. Approved December 21, 2020.

Bill #20-21-17B: Curriculum and Standards Committee Report #20-21-4, Program Changes. Approved December 21, 2020.

5. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Libutti reported that this has been a very challenging year for enrollment due to the broad impact of the on-going COVID -19 pandemic. While enrollment trends for Spring were initially not as strong as previous years, numbers have been gradually improving. The open add period is still open, which has helped, in addition to an extensive outreach effort led by the enrollment services team. Vice Provost noted that the faculty could support these efforts by continuing to contribute to outreach efforts, by encouraging students to stay in school, and by being flexible with students who are adding classes. He thanked faculty for their important contributions to this work and requested their continued support and collaboration.

Vice Provost Libutti noted that enrollment in graduate programs has been excellent and he congratulated and thanked the Graduate School team for their effective work.

Vice Provost Libutti reported that he had never imagined attempting to recruit students who have never seen the URI campus. The enrollment services and admissions teams have adapted remarkably to the challenges posed by COVID-19, recruiting students, with constant communication, virtual tours, and a variety of events. To date, there are 24,000 applications for Fall 2021, the majority of which are from out-of-state applicants. The team is making serious efforts to recruit students from within RI to close the application gap through a series of activities focused on in-state students.

Vice Provost Libutti advised faculty that there may be funds available to assist students with unmet financial need. Dr. Carnell Jones, Director of Enrollment Services, can help students in these circumstances.

6. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a.** Interim Dean DeBoef presented the Graduate Council Report Graduate Council Curricular Report #2020-2021-3, with Appendices A, B-D, which was approved. Senator Coppa pointed out an editorial correction that will be addressed prior to forwarding the report to the President.
 - b.** Assistant Graduate School Dean Mosley Austin and Senator Kincaid presented the Joint Report of the Curriculum and Standards Committee and the Graduate Council #2020-2021-2, which was approved. Senator Morokoff inquired about the presence of ABM guidelines in the University Manual.
 - c.** Senator Kincaid, Chair, presented the Curriculum and Standards Committee Report No. 2020-2021-5, which contained information items.
- 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. There was none.
 - 9. ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.