

5-13-2021

## Faculty Senate Minutes May 13, 2021

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen\\_min](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_min)

---

### Recommended Citation

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "Faculty Senate Minutes May 13, 2021" (2021). *Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes*. Paper 92.

[https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen\\_min/92](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_min/92)

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](mailto:digitalcommons-group@uri.edu).

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED  
2021-2022 FACULTY SENATE  
May 13, 2021, via Zoom  
MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER OF THE FACULTY SENATE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING –**

Senate President Echevarria called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. All Senators were present except for Senators Amin, Blanpied, Costello, Goods, Hatfield, Leatham, Lee, Kolbe, Martins, McGough, Mok, Parker, Preisser, Roman, Sabik, Sendg, Van Uffelen, Wen, and Zhang. Ex officio members in attendance were: President Dooley, Provost DeHayes, Vice Presidents Collins, Rider, Snyder; Vice Provosts Ako-Adounvo, Bodah, Libutti; Deans Boughida, Bontempi, and Wolfe.

**2. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES** of April 29, 2021, Faculty Senate meeting. FS President Echevarria announced that the minutes of the April 29, 2021, Faculty Senate meeting had been posted with the agenda. She inquired if there were any comments, additions, or questions. Hearing none, President Echevarria declared the minutes approved.

**3. REPORT OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

a. Announcements – Faculty Senate President Echevarria welcomed the new Faculty Senators and thanked the continuing and outgoing Senators. She expressed her gratitude to the Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) for being the dream team that allowed for so many accomplishments during an extraordinary year.

Faculty Senate President Echevarria asked for a change to the agenda, allowing URI Board of Trustee Chair Cook and Trustee Ryan to present earlier than scheduled. The request was approved.

i. FS President Echevarria reported the referendum to amend the Constitution modifying the Faculty Senate membership and apportionment system had been approved by the General Faculty.

b. Senator Morokoff presented the report from the Nominating Committee and election slate to fill 1 one-year and 2 two-year vacancies on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Nominees for the two-year positions were Senators Maier-Sperdelozzi and Nassersharif. Nominees for the one-year positions were Senators Barbour, Meyerson, and Trimm. With no nominations from the Senate floor, the voting poll was made accessible to Senators. Vice Provosts Veeger and Bodah volunteered to count and validate the votes.

The presentations of URI Board of Trustee Chair Cook and Trustee Ryan were moved forward in the agenda due to scheduling conflicts:

URI Board of Trustees (BoT) Chair Cook congratulated Faculty Senate President Echevarria on the fantastic job as Senate President and her devotion to shared governance. Chair Cook remarked that she is looking forward to working with incoming Faculty Senate President Cardany.

Chair Cook thanked University President Dooley for the amazing job he has done over the last 12 years and celebrated his many accomplishments including the pressing for the creation of the URI Board of Trustees. She praised the good work done by the faculty, administration, and students on excelling during the pandemic and congratulated everyone for their roles in the success.

Chair Cook expressed that, building on University President Dooley's work and momentum, the Board of Trustees' goals moving forward include a 24/7 experiential learning environment, globalizing URI, continuing to develop the research scholarship, and building a community of equity and diversity.

URI Board of Trustee Ryan wished President Dooley a happy birthday and congratulated President Echevarria on her work for the Faculty Senate and the Presidential search committee. Trustee Ryan expressed that he was anxious to meet and work with incoming Faculty Senate President Cardany.

Trustee Ryan relayed that he first met Dr. Dooley in 2009 while co-chairing the search committee for the president's position. He highlighted significant achievements during President Dooley's tenure at the University including outstanding student success, multiple capital projects, outstanding faculty hires, and stressing the need for the University to have its own Board of Trustees. He admired President Dooley's deft navigation and patience in creating a legacy that will last. Trustee Ryan attributed to President Dooley's hard work, focus, and leadership team contributed to instilling pride back to students, faculty, and staff. by

He thanked Dr. Dooley for all he has done in developing a strong foundation and expressed his confidence that incoming President Parlange will continue the University's progression. Trustee Ryan also thanked the faculty and senate leadership for being the "first responders" in a very trying time.

President Dooley responded by thanking Chair Cook and Trustee Ryan for their kind words. He stated that the work was its own reward. He expressed that it has been an honor and privilege to work with the faculty, faculty senate, staff, and students and he is truly appreciative for the opportunity. Looking forward, he informed incoming President Parlange that he will have the best faculty and amazing students to work with that make URI special.

FS President Echevarria reported that the results of the elections were ready. Senator Nassersharif and Senator Maier-Speredelozzi were elected to the 2 two-year terms, and Senator Meyerson was elected to the 1 one-year term.

President Echevarria returned to the agenda as presented:

3c. Activities of the Executive Committee – Incoming President Cardany

- i. Faculty Senate Vice President Cardany announced that the minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings had been posted with the agenda. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.
- ii. FS President Echevarria explained that due a conflict with a URI Board of Trustees meeting, a revised 2021-2022 Faculty Senate meeting schedule was being proposed. The revision changed meeting #1 of the Faculty Senate to Thursday, September 30th rather than Thursday, September 23rd as originally proposed. The revision was approved..
- lii. Incoming Faculty Senate President Cardany expressed that she was looking forward to the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year and aimed to continue the momentum the FSEC has built. Though the 2020-2021 academic year was a challenging year, shared governance was strong and the achievements of FSEC were numerous.

#### **4. AWARDS AND HONORS**

- a. Director DiCioccio, Office of Innovation in General Education presented the Excellence in General Education awards, announced the awards given to faculty who exemplify commitment to stimulating and challenging general education courses. This year's awardees were Professors Bovy and Foster. Professor Bovy, Sociology/Anthropology, received the award for her APG 202 course which had numerous nominations citing her inspiring passion, and her curiosity in discovering the challenges of people who lived in the past that serves her well in her course presentation. Professor Foster, Philosophy Department, received the award for her PHL 103 and THE 338G courses, which induced students to think critically, and discover the joy and fun in learning; these are lessons which will pay off far beyond the college experience.
- b. Former Senator Gindy presented the President Dooley and Reverend Lynn

Baker-Dooley Faculty Senate Appreciation Awards, which celebrate Faculty Senators who have consistently dedicated time, thought, energy, and made important contributions to the Faculty Senate. The awardees were Faculty Senate President Echevarria, Faculty Senate Vice President Cardany, Faculty Senate Executive Committee members Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, and Welters, Senator Izenstark, Technology and Infrastructure Committee member, Senator Mead, Curriculum and Standards Committee member and General Education Subcommittee Chair, Senator Meyerson, Curriculum and Standards Committee member and Academic Calendar Subcommittee Chair, and Senator Ramnarian, Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee member. A special recognition was presented to Faculty Senate Specialist Lawrence.

c. Senate Awards

Faculty Senate President Echevarria presented the **Fritz Wenisch Award for Exceptional Contributions to the Faculty Senate** to Senator Meyerson for her outstanding work as the Chair of the Academic Calendar Committee. President Echevarria stressed Senator Meyerson's commitment and tireless pursuit to have June 19th (Juneteenth) acknowledged as a state and federal holiday.

Provost DeHayes presented the **University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate and Provost's Award for the Sheila Black Grubman Faculty Outstanding Service Award** to Senator Michael Rice for his tireless work for the University as well as the Faculty Senate. Comments from nominators included statements of his knowledge of shared governance, the depth of his institutional knowledge, and his dedicated and unwavering commitment to the students as well as the institution. Provost DeHayes congratulated Senator Rice on his award.

- d. Faculty Senate Echevarria presented President Dooley with a word cloud tribute in the shape of the URI Ram developed from descriptors of President Dooley provided by the FSEC, faculty and senators. FS President Echevarria also presented a Resolution of Recognition of President David M. Dooley. The resolution highlighted his faithful service, safeguarding and defending the University of Rhode Island community during his 12-year tenure noting his positive, innovative transformations, goals of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and commitment to shared governance. She offered heartfelt gratitude for "his extraordinary and positive impact on our community and on our institution." The resolution was enthusiastically approved.

## **5. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

a. President Dooley thanked the Executive Committee for the word cloud graphic and the resolution. He announced that all legislation forwarded by the Faculty Senate office had been approved, commenting on the impact and magnitude of the legislation which improves governance at URI. President Dooley credited the flexibility and the leadership of Faculty Senate President Echevarria, Vice President Cardany, and the Executive Committee as reasons why URI has done so well during the pandemic. Citing the collaboration of shared governance, cooperation with students, faculty, and staff. President Dooley explained that the goal of having face-to-face commencement ceremonies and students back on campus could not have happened without all the hard work that has been done.

He thanked the Senate for the resolution and the sentiments.

b. Status of Actions Forwarded to the President after April 29, 2021

- i. Bill #20-21-39 Recommendation of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Revisions to Senate Membership, University Manual Constitution Articles III, IV, V
- ii. Bill #20-21-40 Recommendation of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Revisions to Senate Membership, University Manual By-Laws, Sections 2.1 - 2.2
- iii. Bill #20-21-42 Recommendation of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Revisions to University Manual Section 8.27.22
- iv. Bill #20-21-43 Joint Report of the Curriculum and Standards Committee and Graduate Council Report #2020-21-3 to the Faculty Senate: Accelerated Bachelors / Masters Programs
- v. Resolution #R-20-21-1 Academic Calendar Subcommittee, Curriculum and Standards Committee, supporting Juneteenth being an official holiday
- vi. Resolution #R-20-21-2 from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, supporting a commitment to anti-racism

## **6. PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Parlange, 12th President of the University of Rhode Island, thanked FS President Echevarria for inviting him to attend the meeting. He expressed

thanks to Board of Trustees Chair Cook and Trustee Ryan for the virtual tour of the campus. He was happy to hear that Rhode Island vaccinations were going well and URI would be able to do an in person commencement. Incoming President Parlange praised URI's shared governance and the faculty for doing such a fantastic job in moving URI forward. He is thrilled to join the university community and to continue to build on the foundation President Dooley developed.

## **7. REPORTS**

- a. Senator Hicks, Chair of the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee presented the second reading and vote on the proposed changes to the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual to reflect gender neutral language. As there were no questions from the senate floor, the voting poll was presented. The language changes were approved. A referendum will follow for general faculty to address the changes.
- b. FS Vice President Cardany and Senator Meyerson, Chair of the Academic Calendar Committee, discussed the resolution approved at the April 29, 2021 Faculty Senate meeting regarding Juneteenth becoming a state and federal holiday. In response to the resolution, Senator Meyerson and Vice President Cardany drafted an Op-Ed supporting Juneteenth as a holiday. The draft op-ed was presented to the Senators who were invited to review and send comments or suggestions to either FS Vice President Cardany or Senator Meyerson.

**8. OLD BUSINESS** - FS President Echevarria called for old business; there was no old business.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Vice Provost Ako-Adounvo announced that international off-campus programs are in place for the fall semester. She explained that URI policy prohibits travel to level 4 countries. The International Travel Review Committee has consulted 50 programs. Vaccines will be mandatory for those in international programs. She thanked all of the people who have worked to make the fall programs possible. She acknowledged that there is still a great deal of work to do but she is optimistic for the fall semester.

- b. FS President Echevarria recognized Senator Mead, Chair of the General Education Subcommittee and Senator Kincaid, Chair of the Curriculum and Standards Committee. Senator Mead acknowledged that during the past year he and Senator Kincaid needed assistance and guidance in their new roles as committee chairs and he wanted to recognize that individual. Senator Kincaid read a Resolution for Faculty Senate Specialist Lawrence extending appreciation for her dedicated service to both the Senate and the University. FS President Echevarria called for a vote; the resolution was approved.
- c. FS President Echevarria passed the gavel and responsibilities of the position of Faculty Senate President to Incoming Faculty Senate President Cardany. President Cardany presented a Resolution to outgoing Faculty Senate President Echevarria acknowledging and thanking her for her persistence, grace and fairness under pressure, leading the Senate through turbulent times, her care in responding to student needs, and her masterful use of analogies to communicate with clarity and humor. President Cardany called for a vote on the resolution; the resolution was approved.

**10.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.