

3-24-2022

Faculty Senate Minutes March 24, 2022

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Thursday, March 24, 2022
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM via WebEx

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Senate President Cardany.

All Senators were in attendance except for Senators: Uchida; Leatham; Martin; Amin; Walls; and Zhang.

Ex Officio members in attendance: Interim Provost Beauvais, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Veeger, Dean Boughida, Dean DeBoef; Dean Larrat; David Smith for Dean Bontempi; Former Senate President Megan Echevarria; Dean Libutti and CIO Kaugars.

2. **Approval of the Agenda:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as published. Motion approved on a voice vote.
3. **Disposition of Minutes:** Faculty Senate Meeting #6, February 24, 2022 - The minutes were approved on a voice vote with no one opposed.
4. **REPORT OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- a. **Announcements - Senate President Cardany -** Senate President Cardany noted a number of important issues are facing the faculty including elections of future Senators and Senate leadership and the creation of a new University Strategic Plan. Senators were encouraged to promote participation in the Senate and its committees as the colleges schedule their elections. They were also encouraged to promote the strategic planning initiative and to attend an upcoming forum on the Plan.

A summer curriculum committee has been assembled so that important work in the colleges can continue. Items being reviewed over the summer will not gain final approval of the Senate until September; however. The Quali CMS is live and the last day to utilize the old forms will be May 20.

The April 28 meeting of the Faculty Senate will be in person at the Welcome Center and new Senators and Executive Committee members will be introduced. The Senate's annual service awards will also be presented. Nomination forms are available via the website.

- b. **Activities of the Executive Committee -** Senate Vice President Rice presented the following:
 - i. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings March 1 & March 8, 2022.
 - ii. Senate Meeting Schedule for Academic Year 2022-2023.
- c. **Recommendations of the Executive Committee -** President Cardany

- i. Motion: Change Manual language regarding Senate Meeting Schedule to align with current practice. A minor change to Section 4.6 of the Faculty Senate By-Laws was presented. The proposal requires two readings and thus will be docketed for action at the 4/14/22 meeting.
- ii. Standing Committee Membership (Section 4 of Appendix C of the University Manual, By-laws) Motion: Adjust all membership numbers for standing committees to indicate minimum number of members only. The proposal requires two readings and thus will be docketed for action at the 4/14/22 meeting.
- iii. Nominating Committee (Section 5 of Appendix C of the University Manual, By-laws) Motion: Move Nominating Committee selection December from January annually to provide more time for decision-making. The proposal requires two readings and thus will be docketed for action at the 4/14/22 meeting.
- iv. That the Faculty Senate approve a nomination to the Space Allocation Committee as described in Sections 5.41.10 and 5.41.11 of the University Manual. On a voice vote, Hollie Putnam from CELS was approved as a member of the Space Allocation Committee for a one year term.

5. REPORT OF THE URI PRESIDENT

- a. Announcements - President Parlange was unavailable so Interim Provost Beauvais delivered his remarks. The resignation of Chief Diversity Officer Mary Grace Almandrez, who has accepted a position at another university, was announced. Interim Provost Beauvais thanked her for her service and noted that searches continue for other key positions like the VP's of Communications and Student Affairs as well as for Provost. The President continues to prioritize Blue Economy initiatives at the State and New England region levels. Another current priority is the University's Strategic Plan. Several forums have been scheduled to gain input. Faculty are referred to the website for more information and to sign up for a forum.
- b. Status of Actions Forward to the President - The following bills have been signed by the President.

Bill #21-22-21B Curricular Report #2021-22-4 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: Curricular Proposals

Bill #21-22-21C the Curricular Report #2021-22-4 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: Creation of Two Track in MS in Dietetics

Bill #21-22-21D Curricular Report #2021-22-4 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: Creation of URI Online Post Graduate Certificate for School Library Media Certification

Bill #21-22-21E Curricular Report #2021-22-4 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: Creation of URI Online Graduate Certificate in Quantum Computing

Bill #21-22-22B Curriculum and Standards Committee Report No. 2021-2022-6: program changes

Bill #21-22-22C Curriculum and Standards Committee Report No. 2021-2022-6: Name Change – School of Professional Studies

Bill #21-22-24 Recommendation of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee: Policy on Policies

Bill #21-22-25 Recommendation of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee: University Manual Appendix G.

6. REPORTS OF JOINT, STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Curricular Report No. 2021-2022-05 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate - Associate Dean Colleen Mouw presented a number of informational items involving 500-level course changes and one temporary course. Five new course proposals were approved unanimously (4 in CEPS and 1 in CELS) along with one new track in the College of Nursing.
- b. Curriculum and Standards Committee Report No. 2021-2022-07 - Chair Kincaid presented several informational matters including course changes, online versions of existing courses and one temporary course. Course changes (7 in A&S, 3 in CELS and 1 in COB) were approved unanimously, having been moved and seconded by CASC. Two changes (deletions) were pulled off the motion in a friendly amendment to be held to the next meeting. New courses (2 in A&S and 4 in COB) were also approved unanimously along with program changes in the College of Business.
- c. General Education Committee Report No. 2021-2022-04 - Chair Rarick presented one new Grand Challenge Topics course and two other courses seeking General Education designations. All were approved unanimously.
- d. Joint Classroom Steering Committee Report - Katie Babula, Vice Chair, provided highlights of her Committee's detailed report on investments made this year. Priorities for expenditures on furnishings centered around enhancing accessibility and flexibility of space, which became especially important during the pandemic. Audio-video infrastructure spending was dedicated to replacing end-of-life equipment, especially in huddle-based and hybrid-class-friendly spaces. Wireless presentation options are also being upgraded, especially in various auditoria. Funds are reserved for fitting-out spaces currently being renovated, like Ranger Hall. Questions were raised about how the Providence and Bay campuses program similar improvements and President Cardany noted the Executive Committee would look into that.
- e. Report of the Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee - Chair Barbour reported on editorial changes made by the CBUM during March. These centered around corrections in areas previously discussed or addressed by prior bills. It was also noted that several divisions within the administration have been asked to update Chapter 2 of the Manual and provide an informational report at the 4/14/22 meeting.
- f. Report of the Center Review Subcommittee - Chair Eaton presented the report which was essentially divided into two parts. First, there were changes designed to add consistency in light of changes made to the Manual last year. The By-Laws were not concurrently updated to reflect those changes and the proposal seeks to remedy that. Second, new changes were proposed to clarify the charge and activities of the Center Review subcommittee and provide more detailed guidance on things like

establishment and dissolution of Centers. The By-Laws changes require two readings and will be docketed for action on the 4/14/22 agenda. A poll was administered for the other amendments (UM Chapter 8) which resulted in 100% approval.

- g. Space Allocation Committee Report - Ryan Carrillo, Chair, outlined the charge and responsibilities of the Committee which is responsible for over 200 buildings and more than 3 million square feet of programmable institutional space. Space is definitely constrained on campus as there is currently very little unallocated, move-in-ready office and lab space available. The Committee and its staff are available to provide consultation and space planning services and faculty and administrators are encouraged to work with them as they consider future space needs.

7. PRESENTATION

- a. **ITGov** - Chief Information Officer Karlis Kaugars thanked members of the Committee for their engagement and contributions, especially Amanda Izenstark and Ted Walls. He also thanked President Cardany for her help in structuring the Committee and articulating its duties in the University Manual. He then delivered an important update on the activities of the University's IT Strategic Governance Committee (ITGov). He explained their basic priorities, which include supporting research with computational resources, and providing technology, access and other support to promote student success and underpin broader goals related to diversity, equity and inclusion. CIO Kaugars then explained that his current top priority has become the security of the University's information resources. The University is under constant threat of attacks from abroad and unless radical changes are made to the way we maintain our data, the institution will become uninsurable from a cyber-security perspective within the next two years. Some recommended strategies for improvement include changes to administrative rights and expansion of multi-factor authentication requirements, but other changes involve a large capital outlay for additional hardware and software and these obviously have significant budget implications. A number of tough decisions will thus face the university in the near future. CIO Kaugars looks forward to going through an IT strategic planning process with the community to take a comprehensive look at our strengths and our vulnerabilities and to set priorities for moving forward.

- 8. **CALL for NEW BUSINESS** - No new business, but former FS President Echevarria was granted permission to speak. Faculty were reminded that Section 6.20.10 of the University Manual provides a Policy on Religious Observance which states, "*No faculty or staff member, administrator or student shall be discriminated against because of religious beliefs or practices.*" There are a number of upcoming religious holidays in April affecting multiple faith communities. Faculty are reminded to be compassionate, creative and sensitive to students with excused absences due to religious holidays.

- 9. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.