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FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Thursday, January 26, 2022
3:00 - 5:00 PM via ZOOM

MINUTES

1. **Call to order** at 3:00 p.m. - The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President Rice at 3:18 PM. All Senators were on hand except Senators Blanthorne, Costello, Kincaid, Parker, Ramnarain, Quashie, Rothstein, Uchida, Zhang and Zozula.

Ex officio members and others in attendance included: President Parlange, Provost Wolfe, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Veeger, Vice Provost Johnson, Associate VP Libutti, Deans Larrat, Dennis, Hunter, and Graney, Interim Deans Larsen and Rambur, Associate Deans Mouw, GIndy and Sartini.

2. **Disposition of Minutes** of the Faculty Senate Meeting #4, December 8, 2022 - The minutes were approved via voice vote without opposition.

3. REPORT OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- a. Announcements - Senate President Rice
 - i. Today's reception is sponsored by the College of Health Sciences - Thank you new Dean Deborah Riebe!
- b. Activities of the Executive Committee - Senate Vice President Nassersharif
 - i. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings: November 28 and December 5, 2022. VP Nassersharif presented the referenced minutes and there were no questions.
- c. Recommendations of the Executive Committee - President Rice:
 - i. That the Faculty approve the membership of the Nominating Committee for the 2022-2023 Faculty Senate (Per Section 5.2 of the Senate By-Laws, to prepare the slate of candidates for Vice President-President Elect and Executive Committee vacancies) - Three members to consist of Senators Linda Welters, Evan Preisser, and Christopher Parker. The seconded motion to approve this committee composition was approved unanimously.
 - ii. That the Faculty elect a replacement FSEC member - Senator and FSEC member Mayrai Gindy has resigned and her seat needs to be filled through Spring 2024 - FSEC

nominates Mary Leveillee (CON). There were no nominations from the floor. The seconded motion was approved.

4. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT:

a. Announcements - President Parlange thanked members of the Office of Institutional Research who helped prepare the presentation. He outlined the four priorities spelled out in the plan: Broadening our Impact; Enhancing Student Achievement; Fostering an Inclusive, People-Centered Culture; and Implementing Leading-Edge Administrative and Financial Systems. Performance Indicators are being developed that are intended to be transparent, outcome focused, and presented in context (i.e. in relation to peer institutions as well as historical trends). He noted that although there might not be a measurable target associated with each indicator, there will be an online dashboard that should help monitor progress in each area in a high level way. There were several follow-up questions from faculty members. These centered primarily around the current budget situation but also touched on the President's outlook regarding opportunities to grow research initiatives, especially internationally. There were also questions about specific aspects of the presentation. As an example, there was a concern about how best to fairly measure faculty impact and if the proposed metrics regarding publications, citations and awards was adequate. It was noted the lists on the slides are illustrative and not meant to be comprehensive. Faculty members were strongly encouraged to keep their profiles and achievements complete and up to date via existing tools like *Faculty 180*.

b. Status of Actions Forwarded to the President

- Bill #22-23-18 Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee, Report #2022-2023-8, Changes to University Manual Chapter 10, Section 10.90.16. Approved by President Parlange on December 16, 2022.
- Bill #22-23-20B Curriculum and Standards Committee Report #2022-2023-04, Suspension of Admission for the BS Non-Profit Administration program. Approved by President Parlange on December 16, 2022.
- Bill #22-23-20C Curriculum and Standards Committee Report #2022-2023-04, New Early Childhood Care and Education TCP Certificate. Approved by President Parlange on December 16, 2022.

5. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

a. Report of the Constitution, Bylaws and University Manual Committee - Senator Echevarria noted her Committee has met twice since the December FS meeting, once with the President and other Administrators to discuss improvements to the policy development process. She also noted that a CBUM report had been tabled at the December meeting but it is still not quite ready to be brought forward. It is hoped it will be ready for the February docket.

i. Informational Reports on editorial changes to the University Manual and its Appendices. (CBUM Reports 2022-2023-12; and 2022-2023-13). Report #12 was discussed at some length. It was determined that the report was not editorial in nature. As a substantive amendment, it would be subject to a

vote. A friendly amendment was offered regarding the language pertaining to the Board of Trustees. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendment and it was unanimously approved.

Report #13 was presented by Chair Echevarria who explained that the CBUM was interested in making the UM language in Chapter 4 accurately reflect the way things have actually been working. There was considerable discussion and it was suggested that the report is not editorial and, given that the language impacts the General Faculty, it should actually be subject to a referendum. A motion was made and seconded for the Faculty Senate to authorize a referendum in order to gain approval of this change. The motion passed on a voice vote.

- ii. CBUM Report for action requiring two readings: 2022-2023-14 - Chair Echevarria presented the report noting that like Report #13, it represented an attempt to align the manual with practical reality. It was suggested that like Report #13, this proposal impacts the General Faculty and should likely also be subject to a referendum. A motion was made and seconded to add this question to the referendum. Motion unanimously supported.

b. Curricular Report No. 2022-2023-4, Appendix A, from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate – Associate Dean Mouw presented the report that included one informational item as well as a new Certificate Program and four associated courses for approval. There was considerable debate about the course numbers and whether they should be at the 500 or 600 level. Ultimately, a motion was made and seconded to approve the report as presented. A voice vote was called for and the motion passed with a few dissenting votes.

c. Curriculum and Standards Committee Report No. 2021-2022-05, Appendices A and B - Chair Preisser presented the report that contained several items for action, including 8 course changes, a new course, and two program closures in CEPS. There was considerable discussion with questions being raised about the program closures as well as the proposed course changes. There was a friendly amendment offered and accepted to fix some bad grammar in the NEU 488 description and a typo in the UCS 161 code. Many of the questions centered around the UCS course and there was a motion to separate the UCS 161 item from the balance of the report. The motion failed on a voice vote. A motion was made and seconded to approve the entire report as presented. The motion passed on a voice vote.

d. General Education Committee Report No. 2021-2022-05 - Chair Rarick presented the brief report containing three items. A motion was made and seconded to approve all matters. It passed unanimously.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Report on the Honors Program – Honors Program Director DeBruin - Tabled to February 23.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Reintroduction of Bill 22-23-13D from the Graduate Council - The Bill, approved by the Senate in November, 2022 but not signed by the President, would have created a Mathematical Statistics and Probability Track in Mathematics PhD program. Per the University Manual, Appendix C, By-Laws of the Faculty Senate, Section 10, Disposition of Senate Action, paragraph 10.3 "When an action of the Senate has been disapproved by the President, the Executive Committee shall resubmit the action to the Senate. The Senate shall decide whether to take no further action, to confirm, to suspend, to rescind, to amend, to refer to committee, or to confirm and direct the statement. If, after transmittal to the President of the Senate's response to the President's disapproval, agreement between the Senate and the President is not reached, either party may elect to submit the matter to the URI Board of Trustees. Such transmittal from the Senate shall be by way of the President." A motion had been made and seconded by the Executive Committee to refer the bill back to the Graduate Council. The motion was approved via voice vote.

8. CALL for NEW BUSINESS - None

9. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM.