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Faculty Senate Minutes March 23, 2023

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Thursday, March 23, 2023
Hope Room - Higgins Welcome Center - and via ZOOM
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1. Call to order at 3:00 p.m. - The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President Rice at 3:08 PM. All Senators were on hand except Senators Bidwell, Buxton, Jamiel, Johnson, Kovarsky, Martin, McGough, Quashie, Porto, Zhang, and Zozula.

Ex officio members and others in attendance included: Provost Wolfe, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Veeger, VP of Student Affairs Reynolds, Associate VP Libutti, VP of Research Snyder, Deans Riebe, Dennis, Hunter, Chen, Marchese, Graney, DeBoef and Rambur, Associate Dean Mouw, CIO Kaugars.

2. URI Land Acknowledgement Statement. President Rice read the statement, found at the start of Chapter 1 of the University Manual, into the record.
3. Disposition of Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting , February 23, 2023 - The minutes were approved via voice vote.

4. **REPORT OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- a. Announcements - Senate President Rice. President Rice welcomed the newest Faculty Senator, Amy D'Agata, who has taken over Denise Coppa's seat for the College of Nursing.
 - i. Reception - College of Engineering Dean Marchese was thanked for sponsoring today's reception.
 - ii. FSEC elections will be held at the April meeting - Senators are encouraged to let the Nominating Committee (Sen. Welters, Chair) know if you are interested in serving on the FSEC.
 - iii. Faculty Senate Specialist Joanne Lawrence is retiring May 31 after more than 40 years at URI! Her position is currently advertised. Senators were asked to identify potential candidates and encourage them to apply.
- b. Activities of the Executive Committee - Senate Vice President Nassersharif

- i. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings of February 6, 13, and 20, and 27, 2023. VP Nassersharif presented the referenced minutes and there were no questions.
 - ii. Proposed Senate Meeting Schedule for Academic Year 2023-2024 - The meeting calendar for next academic year was approved unanimously.
- c. Call for Nominations for Awards - FS President Rice urged Senators to nominate deserving colleagues for the annual awards to be presented in May. He briefly described the awards and their criteria.
 - i. The Sheila Black Grubman Outstanding Faculty Service Award
 - ii. The Fritz Wenisch Award for Exceptional Contributions to the Faculty Senate
- d. Recommendations of the Executive Committee - President Rice
 - i. Resolution Honoring Outgoing Vice President of Research Peter Snyder - The draft resolution was approved unanimously and presented to VP Snyder.
 - ii. By-Laws Amendment to Section 2.7 of Appendix C - President Rice presented the draft amendment which would allow Senators to serve two consecutive terms before being required to step away for a year. FSEC had recommended the move in an effort to lend more continuity to committees and to help in leadership development. As a By-Laws amendment, the matter requires two readings and was first presented at the February meeting. The amendment was approved unanimously.

5. REPORT OF THE URI PRESIDENT

- a. Announcements - Provost Wolfe on behalf of the President - Provost Wolfe noted the President has been busy with the Governor and legislature advocating for budgetary support for URI and she invited all interested parties to participate in "URI Day" at the State House which is coming up on March 28. She briefly addressed the specific budget request and outlined some unique needs currently facing the university. She also highlighted some recent promotions within university administration and some recent positive press for the Colleges of Engineering and Pharmacy. There were a few questions from the floor, particularly about the budget and what the contingency plan is should the university not receive the level of support it needs. It was noted that President Parlange, in addition to his legislative advocacy, continues to pursue outside sources of funds as well.
- b. Status of Actions Forwarded to the President:
 - Bill #22-23-26B Curricular Report No. 2022-2023-5 from the Graduate Council. Approved by President Parlange on March 6, 2023.
 - Bill #22-23-26C Curricular Report No. 2022-2023-5 from the Graduate Council, New Interdisciplinary Neuroscience ABM. Approved by President Parlange on March 6, 2023.

- Bill #22-23-27B Curriculum and Standards Committee Report #2022-2023-06, programs. Approved by President Parlange on March 6, 2023.
- Bill #22-23-27C Curriculum and Standards Committee Report #2022-2023-06, Organizational Change: Change department name and course code for Nutrition (Nutrition and Food Sciences). Approved by President Parlange on March 6, 2023.
- Bill #22-23-29 General Education Committee Report #2022-2023-6, courses. Approved by Faculty Senate on February 23, 2023.
- Bill #22-23-30 Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee, Report #2022-2023-16, Changes and Additions to University Manual Chapter 8, Sections 8.53.20 – 8.53.24, Incompletes. Approved by President Parlange on March 6, 2023.
- Bill #22-23-31 Academic Calendar Committee Report #2022-2023-4, Add Information on Commencement Weekend to URI Calendar. Approved by President Parlange on March 6, 2023.
- Resolution #22-23-2 Resolution Offering Solidarity and Support to Fellow Colleagues and Associated Communities in Florida. Approved by President Parlange on March 6, 2023.

6. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Honors Program Annual Report - Continued from January meeting - Presentation by Director deBruin.

Director deBruin began her presentation by praising Kathleen Maher, who manages national fellowships. The fellowship program under Assistant Director Maher is very successful, both in absolute terms, considering the number of dollars awarded and the number of students impacted, and in comparison to peer institutions. She also praised former Provost DeHayes for his recent gift to the program. The contribution helped highlight the need for the Honors program to grapple with creating a sustainable budget model and to identify outside funding sources, perhaps with the help of a dedicated URI Foundation representative. She encouraged people to review the 2022 annual report attached to the agenda, but focused her presentation on the direction of the Program going forward. Future Honors Colloquium themes were discussed along with ideas for developing an Honors Foundations course and also “stackable” certificates. The Program is considering changing the admission requirements in hopes of recruiting more “change-makers” to the program. Director deBruin asked for advice on how to implement the desired changes and was advised to submit a proposal to be vetted by the curriculum committees for ultimate action by the Faculty Senate. There were several questions from faculty members, especially pertaining to the program budget and the potential phasing-out of existing popular Honors courses.

- b. Student Senate Resolution - Student Senate Speaker Bove was on hand to present a resolution calling for creation of a universal tiered attendance policy. He provided some background on complaints brought to the Student Senate during the course of this academic year which led that body to conclude a standardized policy was called for. He requested support from the Faculty Senate. There was a motion and second to refer the matter to the Curriculum and Standards Committee and Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee. It was noted that the results of the review may involve drafting revisions to the University Manual. At that point, the CBUM

would also need to be involved. The motion for referral to TAAC and CASC was approved.

7. REPORTS OF JOINT, STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Curricular Report No. 2022-2023-06, Appendices A-B, C from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate - Dean DeBoef/Associate Dean Mouw - Several Course changes were presented as informational matters (not requiring a Senate vote). One item, a change to EGR 501, was pulled off the informational report and tabled to allow the Math department an opportunity to review it for overlap. Dean DeBoef explained the two change notices and the new program proposed on Page 2 of the report and these were approved unanimously. Several new 500 and 60 level course proposals were outlined by AD Mouw. Sen. Nassersharif made a motion to pull MPS 598 from the report and table it until it can be reviewed in the context of the relevant program. Sen. Eaton made a motion to also table CSC 546 to allow the Math department an opportunity to review it for overlap. Motions to table are not debatable. The balance of the report was approved unanimously.
- b. Curriculum and Standards Committee Report No. 2022-2023-07, and No. 2022-2023-7a, with Appendices A-M - Chair Preisser presented Report #7 which included several informational matters not for action. The report also included a number of course changes, new courses and program changes subject to a vote. The Senate agreed to act on the courses and the programs separately. The motion to approve the course actions was approved unanimously as was the motion to approve the program changes. Chair Preisser moved on to discuss Report #7a, which addressed a new undergraduate certificate. This proposed credential provides the coursework basis for a State Certification which has additional requirements. The proposal was approved.
- c. General Education Committee Report No. 2022-2023-07 - Chair Rarick presented the brief report which addressed one temporary course, one course change and one new course. The report was approved unanimously.
- d. Reports of the Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee - Committee member Krieger on behalf of Chair Echevarria
 - i. Second Reading of a By-Laws amendment affecting Section 7.3 of Appendix C - CBUM Report #2022-2023-15 - this amendment had been presented last month and it serves to formalize provisions for virtual FS meeting attendance. The report was approved unanimously.
 - ii. Informational Report on implementing the new policy related to resolving grades of Incomplete - CBUM Report #2022-2023-18 - The report seeks to clarify the timeline for new provisions, approved in February, to take effect.
 - iii. Editorial Informational Report on implementing the new policy related to resolving grades of Incomplete - A new policy regarding "Incomplete" grades was approved in February and CBUM Report #19 offers specific amendments to Chapter 8 of the University Manual to reflect the change - see CBUM Report #2022-2023-19

- e. Report of the Academic Calendar Committee - Draft 2028-2029 calendar - Chair Kovoor presented the draft calendar for the 2028-2029 academic year which was prepared with the assistance of the Assistant Director of Enrollment Services. The calendar memorializes the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as part of that recess. The calendar was unanimously approved.
8. **CALL for NEW BUSINESS** - none.
 9. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.