

4-20-2023

## Faculty Senate Minutes April 20, 2023

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**MINUTES**  
**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**Thursday, April 20, 2023**  
**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**Galanti Lounge, Carothers Library, Remote option via ZOOM**

1. Call to order of the General Faculty - Graduate Faculty meeting at 3:00 p.m.
2. Call to order: The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President Rice immediately following the General Faculty - Graduate Faculty Meeting. All Senators were on hand except Senators Bidwell, Blanthorne, Brown, D'Agata, Forster-Holt, Kaskosz, Johnson, Lovett, Parker, Ramnarain, Quashie, Swaszek, and Zozula. Ex officio members and others in attendance included: President Parlange, Provost Wolfe, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Veeger, VP of Student Affairs Reynolds, Associate VP Libutti, Interim VP of Research Jenkins, Deans Riebe, Dennis, Hunter, Graney, DeBoef and Rambur.
3. Land Acknowledgment Statement - President Rice read the statement, found at the start of Chapter 1 of the University Manual, into the record.
4. Disposition of Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of March 23, 2023 - The minutes were approved via voice vote.

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

- a. Announcements and Opening Remarks - Senate President Rice
  - i. Today's reception is sponsored by the College of Pharmacy - Thank you Dean Larrat!
  - ii. Reminder: Approved meeting calendar for Academic Year 2023-24 - The meeting schedule for next semester was shared and continuing Senators were advised to plan their schedules accordingly.
  - iii. Award Nominations - Senators were reminded to nominate deserving colleagues for the Fritz Wenisch and Sheila Black Grubman service awards for presentation at the May meeting.
  - iv. Informational Item: The Executive Committee has the authority to approve curriculum proposals over the summer on behalf of the full Senate for matters deemed urgent/essential.
- b. Activities of the Executive Committee - Senate Vice President Nassersharif
  - i. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings - March 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2023 and

April 3 and 10, 2023. There was a question regarding FSEC discussions of growth in administrator lines in the budget. This provided a segue into President Parlange's report which included a budget presentation. He responded to the concern about "growing administration" by explaining that there have been some position upgrades but the actual number of "administrators" is not changing. There were no other questions about the minutes.

## 6. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

i. Remarks from President Parlange - The President offered a presentation on the budget that addressed the current operating budget deficit and projections for the coming year. A number of measures are planned to address the deficit and there were questions about the potential impacts of some of these. President Parlange provided some data on the state's disinvestment in its flagship institution over time and noted his goal is still to turn that around. He then talked about the incentive based budget model which may allow the university to focus on generating new revenues and not just on making cuts to address the structural deficit. There were questions from faculty about what metrics might be used in programming an incentive-based budget. Provost Wolfe noted the performance metrics are still being devised but they will be tied to the Strategic Plan's KPI's. Other faculty questions addressed administrative support for faculty innovation, potential impacts on early career faculty who are already squeezed with heavy teaching loads and research pressures, and how graduation requirements might change in response to efforts to free up faculty time. President Parlange concluded by noting that the shift in the university's fiscal approach is an attempt to try to recapture what has been lost over time and it will definitely take time to realize the results. The college deans will need to grapple with the paradigm shift as the new budget model takes hold.

### ii. Status of Actions Forwarded to the President

Bill #22-23-32 Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Revisions to University Manual, Appendix C, By-laws of the Faculty Senate, Section 2.7. Approved by President Parlange on March 30, 2023.

Bill #22-23-33B Curricular Report No. 2022-2023-6 from the Graduate Council, programs. Approved by President Parlange on March 30, 2023.

Bill #22-23-33C Curricular Report No. 2022-2023-6 from the Graduate Council, New Program: PhD in Education. Approved by President Parlange on March 30, 2023. Pending approval by URI Board of Trustees.

Bill #22-23-34B Curriculum and Standards Committee Report #2022-2023-07, programs. Approved by President Parlange on March 30, 2023.

Bill #22-23-34C Curriculum and Standards Committee Report #2022-2023-07, New Undergraduate URI Alcohol and Drug Academic Certificate. Approved by President Parlange on March 30, 2023.

Bill #22-23-36 Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee, Report #2022-2023-15, Changes University Manual By-Laws, Section 7.3. Approved by President Parlange on March 30, 2023.

Bill #22-23-37 Academic Calendar Committee Report #2022-2023-5, 2028-2029 Academic Calendar. Approved by President Parlange on March 30, 2023.

Resolution #22-23-3 Resolution Honoring Outgoing Vice President of Research Peter

Snyder. Approved by President Parlange on March 30, 2023.

## **7. REPORTS OF JOINT, STANDING, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

a. Informational Report and Curricular Report No. 2022-2023-7, with Addendum; Appendices A-J from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate -- Dean DeBoef provided a detailed report addressing 22 informational matters along with eight 400-, 500- and 600-level new course proposals. The report also included 6 program changes, two new certificates and two new programs for action. The report was approved. Dean DeBoef also presented an addendum outlining recent changes to the Graduate Manual. Two important changes to PhD programs were recently approved. They are designed to increase eligibility for All but Dissertation status and decrease the minimum credit requirements for a PhD from 72 to 64. Individual programs seeking to enact credit requirement changes will need to go through the curricular review process. A motion was made and seconded to approve this report and it was unanimously approved.

b. Curriculum and Standards Committee Report No. 2022-2023-8, Appendices A-J, Report No. 2022-2023-9, Appendices A-D - Chair Preisser presented Report #8 from the Committee's March meeting. It included two informational matters and several items for action including course and program changes as well as two new courses and one new program. There was a question raised about one of the program changes (International Studies BA). A motion was made to pull this item from the report and table it to the next meeting to allow time for further review. This motion was unanimously approved. The amended report was approved. Chair Preisser then presented Report #9 from the Committee's April meeting. It also included course and program changes as well as new courses and one new program. There was also one organizational change (CEPS). The report was unanimously approved as presented.

c. General Education Committee Report No. 2022-2023-08 and 2022-2023-9 - Chair Rarick presented Report #8 from the Committee's March meeting. It included one informational matter and five items for action. It was unanimously approved. He then presented Report #9 from the Committee's April meeting and it was also unanimously approved.

d. Academic Calendar Committee - Chair Kovoor for Approval of the Accelerated Online Calendar for AY 2026-2027 and the 2026 Summer Calendar as required. Chair Kovoor presented the report which had been prepared with the assistance of the Associate Director of Enrollment Services. It was unanimously approved.

e. Research and Creative Activities Committee Report – Chair Nassersharif presented the annual report of the committee which included a recommendation that the Committee be expanded and its official charge updated to better meet the needs of faculty engaged in research and creative activities. Questions were raised by Senators about the proposal and whether or not it would constitute a by-laws change. President Parlange had questions as well and suggested that the proposal be held for further study. A motion was made and seconded to table the proposal and it was approved.

i. Center Review Subcommittee Report - Due to time constraints, Chair Eaton did not present her Committee report. The matter was continued to the May meeting. She

requested action on the following new center proposal however.

(a) For approval - New Center Proposal: URI Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity Center - Chair Eaton briefly described the center, noting it would be based in the Computer Science and Statistics Department and would thus report to its department Chair and the CAS Dean. The proposal was approved unanimously.

ii. Competitive Grants Subcommittee - Chair Welters - Tabled to the May meeting.

g. Annual Report of Service and Community Life Committee - Chair Martin - Tabled to the May meeting.

h. Report of the Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee - Chair Echevarria

i. Presidential Administrative Report on Appendix F amendments - Chair Echevarria explained that the CBUM had spent some time reviewing this informational report and was now prepared to recommend it to the Faculty Senate. The CBUM worked with Administrative Policy Committee staffers who were responsive to CBUM's suggestions. She thanked personnel in Enrollment Management and the Transfer Resources Center for their assistance in this update. The report was accepted.

**8. PRESENTATIONS:** Budget Presentation by John Poehlmann, Assistant Vice President for Financial Strategy and Planning.

This presentation was addressed as part of the President's Remarks. See item 6i above for details.

**9. CALL for NEW BUSINESS** - none.

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