

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE

Pastore Hall, 51 Lower College Road, Kingston, RI 02881 USA p: 401.874.2616

**Faculty Senate Meeting #5
January 23, 2020 Minutes**

1. **THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING** was called to order by Chair Nassersharif at 3:02 PM at the Beupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Science. All members were present except for Senators Amin, Burroughs, Chandlee, Chen, Donohue, Gordon, Greaney, Haile, Hashemi, Hatfield, Leatham, Meenach, Mok, Rogers, Trimm, Vyas, Wyatt. Ex Officio in attendance: Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Veeger, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Libutti, Dean Corliss, Associate Dean Sartini for Dean Kirby, and Dean Zawia. Also in attendance: Associate Dean DeBoef, Assistant Director Online Education, Office of Advancement of Teaching and Learning.
2. **DISPOSITION OF MINUTES** of the [Faculty Senate Meeting # 4](#) December 5, 2019 minutes were posted with the agenda. The Senate Chair asked if there were any additions, corrections or questions on the minutes. As there were no corrections or questions, the minutes were approved.
3. **REPORT OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**
 - a. Announcements – The Senate Chair announced that Faculty Senate Coordinator Peggy Benz will be out on medical leave for the next six weeks. During that time, he can be contacted directly, and you are asked to please copy Joanne Lawrence on emails. He also announced that the Faculty Senate office has been relocated to Pastore Hall, Room 224, providing more space including a conference room. Faculty Senate members are welcome to use the conference room for Senate business and the Provost has provided money for a conference table, screen, etc. Please stop by the new office anytime, and contact Joanne Lawrence to schedule the conference room.
 - b. Reminder – We have one upcoming administrator review this year – surveys will be going out before the next senate meeting. The subject of the review is President Dooley, and he welcomes faculty input in his review. He is supportive of shared governance, and he has committed to share his review with the new Board of Trustees, which is sincerely appreciated by the Faculty Senate. Additionally, faculty in the College of Education and Professional Studies will be engaged in reviewing their dean as will faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences.
 - c. Activities of the Executive Committee – Vice-Chair Echevarria presented the Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting #27, December 19, 2019, for notice. There were no questions or comments.
 - The next election for positions on the Executive Committee will be held in May. There will be three open positions, and we encourage Faculty Senate members to consider running – you will find it rewarding and impactful.
 - The Executive Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate approve the membership of the Nominating Committee for the 2020-2021 Faculty Senate:
Senator David Byrd, Senator Kristine Bovy, and Senator Michael Honhart.
Approved.
4. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**
 - a. The Provost attended on behalf of the President and reported that the Office of the Provost recently hosted the 12th Annual Academic Summit and it was highly successful with approximately 315

registrants for the Summit. He appreciates the Faculty Senate support and recognized the work of the Joint Committee on Academic Planning (JCAP) and the event planning committee with thanks.

- b. The Provost reported on the status of the newly-created URI Board of Trustees. The Governor will appoint the 17 members of the new Board, but we have not yet seen a final list of names. The new Board will include eight members that will self-perpetuate, that is, as members rotate off the Board, eight replacements will be selected by the Board. While the Board will develop its own meeting schedule, it will likely meet four-to-five times per year. URI will provide the budget for two staff members to support the board. The Provost will share the final list and associated details with the Faculty Senate when the Governor shares her list. The nominees will be subject to “advise and consent”, i.e., confirmation by the Rhode Island senate.
- c. The Provost reported on the Governor’s Budget. He said that November revenue estimates were not good and the State was projecting a \$200 Million shortfall. One piece of good news is that completion of the Fine Arts Building is in the bond funding package. A \$10 Million bond item for Allen Harbor was included as well. Unfortunately, the GSO Phase 2 was not proposed in the Governor’s bond funding proposal. This budget still has to be approved by the General Assembly. The State Appropriations increase for URI is challenging – we asked for \$5.8 Million, but received only \$450,000, so anything we can do to support recruitment and retention will be needed. There is very limited state bonding capacity this year, but 2022 will be much better for our Bay Campus plans.

5. REPORT ON BRIGHTSPACE ROLLOUT

Professor Kathleen Torrens announced that we have soft-launched Brightspace, the new learning management system. There have been some minor issues, but overall the comments are very positive. Full access will be provided beginning February 3, 2020, which will include training for users. We hope the new system will be a game-changer for faculty and much better for students. Questions and discussion followed.

6. REPORT OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Committee on Teaching, Advising and Assessment: Chair David Byrd reviewed the charge to the committee and reported on the Committee’s activities. See slide presentation for full details. There were no questions.
 - b. Curriculum and Standards Committee: Chair Audrey Cardany presented 58 curricular matters that require confirmation by the Faculty Senate (see committee report.) All were approved, except for the change to the International Engineering Program (IEP) “subplan”. After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that this item be sent back to the committee for clarification regarding the language degree completion.
7. **OLD BUSINESS:** Chair Nassersharif asked if there was any unfinished old business. There was none.
 8. **NEW BUSINESS:** Chair Nassersharif asked if there was any new business. There was none.
 9. **ADJOURNMENT** There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.