Special Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, April 2, 2020
(4:00 PM to 5:45 PM)
Via WebEx

1. THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING was called to order by Chair Nassersharif via WebEx at 4:01 pm. All members were present except for Senators Leatham and Sodhi. Ex Officio in attendance: President Dooley, Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Veeger, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Libutti, Vice Provost Ako-Adounvo, Vice President Collins. Also in attendance: Assistant Vice President & Chief Diversity Officer Almandrez, Chief Information Office Kaugars, Dean Wolfe, Dean Riley, Vice President Collins, Dean Rolle, Dean Boughida, Dean Richmond, Associate Dean DeBoef, Associate Dean Sartini, Senior Associate Director of Enrollment Service Humphrey, Director of Learning, Assessment & Online Education Goldsmith.

2. REPORT OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Senate Chair Nassersharif welcomed participants and explained the purpose of the special Faculty Senate meeting. He explained the need for this motion due to the upheaval of students as a result of the Covid-19 virus and the abrupt transition to remote learning in the middle of the semester. He thanked the Executive Committee and the Provost's Teaching and Learning Task Force for all the hard work and thorough and thoughtful deliberation. The Chair recognized the URI Student leadership, Faculty, the AAUP Director, the Teaching & Learning Task Force, Enrollment Services and the senior leadership of President Dooley and Provost DeHayes.

The Chair asked Vice Chair Echevarria to explain and introduce the motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on the Temporary Spring 2020 Alternative Grading Scheme Option. Vice Chair Echevarria introduced the motion which will provide for a temporary suspension for Spring 2020 of the University Manual and then explained the amended motions which will then give students the option to choose credit or the option to choose not for credit - a student triggered process. Friendly motions include an amendment on Spring 2020 Session 2 courses of accelerated online programs. In the motions there is an option for accredited departments and programs to develop a petition and approval process.
There was a request that Amended Motion #1 be divided into three motions. The motion was then divided.

 #1b.1 temporarily suspends University Manual sections to allow individual undergraduate and graduate students to elect to be graded using an alternative grading scheme for Spring 2020 courses in which they are currently enrolled. **Motion 1b.2** defines the alternative grading scheme and amended motion **1b.3** defines the process and deadlines. Students will communicate their course-by-course opt-in intent through a web-based form directly to Enrollment Services who will then translate the letter grade to the S/S-/U* equivalent.

The Chair called on President Dooley and Provost DeHayes to offer their perspectives.
President Dooley thanked Vice Chair Echevarria, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Teaching and Learning Task Force, faculty and students. Saying it is a pivotal moment in the University's history, President Dooley it is an opportunity for the University to demonstrate flexibility, resiliency and the ability to respond quickly.   The President further acknowledged that students are struggling in this time of the Covid-19 virus and this option can keep them on the road to success. This is a for the university, as an institution that cares, has compassion and has high standards.

Provost DeHayes thanked and acknowledged the Chair and Vice Chair, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Teaching and Learning Task Force and the student leadership. Over the last week he has had numerous conversations with students and parents. Many URI students are struggling with academic and family issues. Willing learners are struggling to survive. There is a subset of these learners with the fewest means that struggle which is a social justice issue. The Provost said he celebrates the Senate leadership for being thoughtful, fair, equitable and feasible in this situation. He continued that it is a stressful time for faculty trying to balance the new world as they deal with academic work and personal lives. The Provost said it was time to bring compassion into learning experiences to all students.

CALL FOR VOTE ON MOTION to request to divide amended motion #1b into three motions.
RESULTS: Motion was approved 53 approve, 1 oppose, and 2 abstain

CALL FOR VOTE ON MOTION 1B.1 to Temporarily suspend certain rules of sections 8.53.10 and 8.53.30 of the University Manual, for the sole purpose of allowing individual undergraduate and graduate students, for any Spring 2020 courses in which they are currently enrolled, to elect to be graded using an alternative grading scheme. To ensure successful programmatic progression standards are maintained, accredited programs may implement a petition process in order for students to gain access to any alternative grading scheme.
RESULTS: Motion was approved 53 approve, 1 oppose, and 2 abstain

CALL FOR VOTE ON MOTION 1b.2 to define alternative grade scheme which will consist of a S/S-/U* grading scheme (in lieu of A, B, C, D, F).
Discussion on motion ensued. There were concerns around impacts of this on Dean's List status, and financial aid/scholarships. Other concerns were Graduate School grades. Accredited programs are allowed to use alternative pathways. There is a need for uniformity across the colleges for the grading scheme.
RESULTS: Motion 1b.2 was approved 43 approve, 5 oppose, and 1 abstain

Motion was made to extend the Special meeting for 15 minutes and approved

CALL FOR VOTE ON MOTION 1b.3 Students will communicate their course-by-course opt-in intent through a web-based form directly to Enrollment Services. Enrollment Services will translate the letter grade. Students will communicate their opt-in intent no later than ~~April 15, 2020~~ May 15, 2020. Discussion on motion timeline ensued.

Motion was made and approved to divide question 1b.3.

RESULTS: Motion 1b.3 was approved 43 approve, 5 oppose, and 1 abstain

Motion was made to extend the Special meeting for 15 minutes and approved

CALL FOR VOTE ON MOTION on amended Motion 1b.3.1: Extend deadline to May 15, 2020
RESULTS: Motion was approved 43 approve, 5 oppose, and 1 abstain

Chair Nassersharif reported that the business of the meeting has been concluded. He said the new policies will be communicated with clear guidance to students and faculty.

The President will work closely with the Provost to make students aware of options. The Provost office will put out guidance. The President thanked the Faculty Senate leadership for helping out students and faculty. Saying today they stood up for students.

3. There being no other business there was a motion to adjourn at 5:38.

Temporary Alternative Grading Option

Motion #1: Original Motion for an Alternative Grading Option (S/U*/F)

Temporarily suspend certain rules of sections 8.53.10 and 8.53.30 of the University Manual, for the sole purpose of allowing individual undergraduate and graduate students, for any Spring 2020 face-to-face, web-enhanced or blended courses in which they are currently enrolled, to elect to be graded using an alternative S/U*/F grading scheme (in lieu of A, B, C, D, F), by communicating their decision to the instructor of record for the course in question no later than April 15, 2020.

Under the alternative grading scheme proposed in this motion:

- The grades of "S" and "U*" do not impact students' grade point averages.
- A grade of "S" signifies satisfactory completion of the learning outcomes of the course in question, thus permitting students to advance to subsequent courses in different curricula for which that course is a prerequisite.
- A grade of "U*" signifies non-punitive unsatisfactory completion of learning outcomes of the course in question. Unsatisfactory work does not impact the student's GPA. In order to advance to subsequent courses in different curricula for which the course in question is a prerequisite, the student must re-take the course.
- A grade of "F" signifies a failure to achieve learning outcomes and carries 0.00 quality point value and has a negative impact on the student's GPA.
- Because some academic programs require specific grades (i.e., C or above) for program credit, the exact definition of "S" may vary from one course to another. Faculty must clearly communicate to students enrolled in their courses the criteria for "S" "U*" and "F" work in a given course.
- To ensure successful programmatic progression standards are maintained, accredited programs may implement a petition process in order for students to gain access to this alternative S/U*/F grading scheme.

Amended Motion #1a: Alternative Grading Option (S/S-/U*)

Temporarily suspend certain rules of sections 8.53.10 and 8.53.30 of the University Manual, for the sole purpose of allowing individual undergraduate and graduate students, for any Spring 2020 courses in which they are currently enrolled, to elect to be graded using an alternative S/S-/U* grading scheme (in lieu of A, B, C, D, F), by communicating their decision to the instructor of record for the course in question no later than April 15, 2020.

Under the alternative grading scheme proposed in this amended motion:

- The grades of "S" "S-" and "U*" do not impact students' grade point averages.
- A grade of "S" signifies satisfactory completion of the learning outcomes of the course.
- A grade of "S-" signifies marginally satisfactory achievement of learning outcomes.
- A grade of "U*" signifies non-punitive unsatisfactory completion of learning outcomes of the course in question and no credits earned. Unsatisfactory work does not impact the student's GPA. In order to advance to subsequent courses in different curricula for which the course in question is a prerequisite, the student must re-take the course.
- To ensure successful programmatic progression standards are maintained, accredited programs may implement a petition process in order for students to gain access to this alternative S/S-/U* grading scheme.
- Equivalencies between the traditional grading system and this alternative grading scheme:

A = S	B- = S	D+ = S-
A- = S	C+ = S	D = S-
B+ = S	C = S	F = U*
B = S	C- = S	

Amended Motion #1b: Clarification of session for Accelerated Online Programs

Temporarily suspend certain rules of <u>sections 8.53.10 and 8.53.30 of the University Manual</u>, for the sole purpose of allowing individual undergraduate and graduate students, for any Spring 2020 courses <u>or Spring 2020 Session 2 courses of an accelerated online program</u> in which they are currently enrolled, to elect to be graded using an alternative S/S-/U* grading scheme (in lieu of A, B, C, D, F), by communicating their decision to the instructor of record for the course in question no later than April 15, 2020.

Under the alternative grading scheme proposed in this amended motion:

- The grades of "S" "S-" and "U*" do not impact students' grade point averages.
- A grade of "S" signifies satisfactory completion of the learning outcomes of the course.
- A grade of "S-" signifies marginally satisfactory achievement of learning outcomes.
- A grade of "U*" signifies non-punitive unsatisfactory completion of learning outcomes of the course in question and no credits earned. Unsatisfactory work does not impact the student's GPA. In order to advance to subsequent courses in different curricula for which the course in question is a prerequisite, the student must re-take the course.
- To ensure successful programmatic progression standards are maintained, accredited programs may implement a petition process in order for students to gain access to this alternative S/S-/U* grading scheme.
- Equivalencies between the traditional grading system and this alternative grading scheme:

A = S	B- = S	D+ = S-
A- = S	C+ = S	D = S-
B+ = S	C = S	F = U*
B = S	C- = S	

Request to Divide Amended Motion #1b

There is a request that Amended Motion #1 be divided into three motions:

Amended Motion 1b.1:

Temporarily suspend certain rules of sections 8.53.10 and 8.53.30 of the University Manual, for the sole purpose of allowing individual undergraduate and graduate students, for any Spring 2020 courses in which they are currently enrolled, to elect to be graded using an alternative grading scheme.

To ensure successful programmatic progression standards are maintained, accredited programs may implement a petition process in order for students to gain access to any alternative grading scheme.

RESULTS: Motion was approved 53 approve, 1 oppose, and 2 abstain

<u>**Amended Motion 1b.2:**</u>

The alternative grade scheme will consist of S/S-/U* grading scheme (in lieu of A, B, C, D, F). The terms S, S-, and U* are described as follows:

a) The grades of S, S-, and U* do not impact students' grade point averages.
b) A grade of "S" signifies satisfactory completion of the learning outcomes of the course.
c) A grade of "S-" signifies marginally satisfactory achievement of learning outcomes.
d) A grade of "U*" signifies non-punitive unsatisfactory completion of learning outcomes of the course in question and no credits earned. In order to advance to subsequent courses in different curricula for which the course in question is a prerequisite, the student must re-take the course.

Equivalency between the traditional grading system and this alternative grading scheme will be:

A = S	B+ = S	C+ = S	D+ = S-	F = U*
A- = S	B = S	C = S	D = S-	
	B- = S	C- = S		

RESULTS: Motion was approved 43 approve, 5 oppose, and 1 abstain

<u>Amended Motion 1b.3:</u>

Students will communicate their course-by-course opt-in intent through a web-based form directly to Enrollment Services. Course instructors will submit traditional letter grades for students through the usual e-campus grade roster process. For students who opt for the alternative grading scheme, Enrollment Services will translate the letter grade to the S/S-/U* equivalent.

Students will communicate their opt-in intent no later than ~~April 15, 2020~~. May 15, 2020

RESULTS: Motion was approved 39 approve, 2 oppose, and 2 abstain

Amended Motion 1b.3.1: Extend deadline to ~~April 28, 2020~~ ~~May 14, 2020~~ May 15, 2020

RESULTS: Motion was approved 43 approve, 5 oppose, and 1 abstain