

## **Nominating Committee Report**

**May 7, 2020**

Senator Bovy, Senator Byrd, and Senator Honhart

### **Nominees for two-year Faculty Senate Executive Committee position:**

Laura Meyerson

Michael Rice

Linda Walters

### **Nominees for a one-year Faculty Senate Executive Committee position:**

Patricia Morokoff

Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz

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## **2020-2021 OFFICERS AND RETURNING MEMBERS of the FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **SENATE CHAIR:**

**Megan Mercedes Echevarría**, Associate Professor  
Section Head, Spanish  
Spanish and Film Media Studies  
College of Arts & Sciences

### **SENATE VICE CHAIR:**

**Audrey Berger Cardany**, Associate Professor  
Department of Music  
College of Arts & Sciences

### **CONTINUING MEMBERS of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

**Sandy J. Hicks**, Associate Professor,  
School of Education  
College of Education and Professional Studies

**Marilyn M. Barbour**, Professor and Chair  
Department of Pharmacy Practice  
College of Pharmacy

## Nominees for Two Year Term for Faculty Senate Executive Committee



### Senator Laura Meyerson

Laura Meyerson is a Professor at URI, director of the Restoration Ecology minor and the Environmental Science minor. She is the Associate Editor-in-Chief for *Biological Invasions* and an Associate Editor for *Neobiota*. She is a trustee for the Switzer Foundation, an international Science advisor for the Center for Invasion Biology, Stellenbosch University in South Africa, is currently leading a chapter on trends in biological invasions for the forthcoming IPBES report on invasive species, a former member of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee for the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). She is an Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellow and twice a Fulbright Fellow (2011, 2018). Prior to URI, she was a staff scientist at the Heinz Center in Washington, DC where she led the development of non-native species indicators for The State of the Nation's Ecosystem report. As a post-doc, Dr. Meyerson was an AAAS Fellow with the US EPA and NISC working on biosecurity, and a research scientist at the Smithsonian where she worked with the Global Invasive Species Program on two global assessments for the Convention on Biological Diversity. Dr. Meyerson earned her doctorate in 2000 from Yale University, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

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### Senator Michael A. Rice

I seek to earn your vote in the upcoming election for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for the 2021 and 2022 Academic Years. This year is particularly challenging for the University and the state and I hope to add my counsel and contributions to the FSEC as we move forward in these challenging times. I bring experience of service on numerous university-wide and college committees through good times and bad, getting to know well many of the short-term pitfalls. Building upon my varied past experiences, I have constantly sought the wisdom to blaze new pathways toward long-term success. We have a URI-wide culture of a collaborative approach toward problem solving, and our richness in differences of academic culture in each of our unique colleges can be drawn upon as an institutional strength and resilience. I take seriously the responsibility of the Senate as the Faculty's primary vehicle for shared governance in our University, and I will work diligently for our community in seeking and nurturing our opportunities in this time of crisis transition. For these reasons I seek your support and your vote. Go Rhody!

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### Senator Linda Welters

Shared governance is critical in these extraordinary times. My many years at URI have provided me with the knowledge and experience to serve on the Executive Committee at this juncture. This is my fourth term as a senator. I served on the Executive Committee from 2014 to 2016 and as Vice-Chair for the 2105-2016 academic year. My record also includes 18 years as department chair of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design; membership on Council for Research, Council for Humanities, Watson House Committees plus others; familiarity with the operations of two colleges: the former College of Human Science and Services, and the College of Business. Also, I received the URI Scholarly Excellence Award in 2005. It would be an honor to contribute to URI as a member of the Executive Committee.

## Nominees for One Year Term for Faculty Senate Executive Committee



### **Senator Patricia Morokoff**

I am now completing a two-year term on the Faculty Senate Executive committee where I have been actively involved in all aspects of faculty senate business. In recent months the executive committee has focused on needed responses to the Coronavirus pandemic, including the alternative grading scheme and planning for the fall 2020 semester. I am running for another year on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to continue this work. I have been a faculty member at URI since 1987 in the Department of Psychology. I have held a number of administrative positions during my years at URI, including Director of the doctoral program in Clinical Psychology, Chair of Psychology, and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. My research is in the areas of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Health and I have successfully graduated 21 doctoral students. Since returning to the faculty from the A&S Dean's office, I have resumed undergraduate teaching with great enthusiasm and have become major professor to three new doctoral students. I furthermore serve as the chair of my department's Undergraduate Committee and in the past two years have revised both our BA and BS learning outcomes, drafted assessment reports, and have begun work with the committee to substantially revise our undergraduate curricula. Over the years I have participated in substantial university service including as co-Chair of the Equity Council and as a member of the Gateway to Completion Steering Committee, the Student Success Committee, the Strategic Budget and Planning Committee, the Academic Affairs Diversity Task Force, and the Academic Advising Joint Steering Committee. My current interests at the university level are in enhancing student success, developing strong degree programs, and maintaining opportunities for faculty productivity in both scholarship and teaching during this pandemic.

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### **Senator Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz**

Bio: Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz joined the faculty of URI in 2009. She was promoted to the rank of full professor of in 2019 and she currently serves as the director of the Social Science Institute for Research, Education, and Policy (SSIREP). Her research expertise spans American political institutions, American political behavior and public policy evaluation and analysis but she is particularly interested in inequality and equity in the political and policy process. In 2019, She won the A&S Research Excellence Award and in 2010 she won the A&S Undergraduate Advising Award. She has been nominated several times for the excellence in teaching award. She has published extensively both in academic peer-reviewed venues and in the popular press. She also works closely with the Rhode Island state government to provide research expertise to pressing policy issues.

Why I'm running: The future of the University is currently very uncertain. During this time, we will need thoughtful leadership that takes into consideration the needs of our faculty, our students, and the University as an institution. I think my background at the University of investing heavily in teaching and research as well as my experience directing an Institute and connecting extensively with the administration and the state will help me bring the necessary perspectives to the decision-making process. I want to make sure that the perspectives of faculty who focus on different academic disciplines, who excel in different aspects of their jobs, and who are at very different stages of their careers are represented and accounted for. It is also important to me that the institution makes policy that is well thought out, able to be evaluated, and considers the potential unforeseen consequences on our students, faculty and the Institution.

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