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OF RHODE ISLAND

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FACULTY SENATE OFFICE
GREEN HALL, 35 CAMPUS AVENUE, KINGSTON, RI 02881
P: 401.874.5176  URI.EDU/FACSEN

**Meeting Minutes of the URI Faculty Senate**
**Thursday, October 18, 2018**
**Room 105, Beaupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences**

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** at 3:05 p.m.
   Senate members missing: Senators Harris, Chandlee, Uchida, Blanpied, Greaney, Xu, Sodhi, Thulier, Kincaid, and Hume
   Others in attendance: President Dooley, Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Ako-Adounvo, Vice Provost Beauvais, Interim Vice Provost Bodah, Dean Riley, Dean Graney, Associate Dean Seitsinger, Director Diane Goldsmith, Student Senate President Adriana Wilding, Student Senate Academic Chair John Morabito

2. **DISPOSITION OF MINUTES**:
   Minutes of September meeting were approved with the addition of the following members present but omitted from the September 20, 2018, Faculty Senate meeting: Associate Dean Anne Seitsinger for Dean Rolle, Senator Christy Ashley, Senator Martin Bide

3. **REPORT of OFFICERS and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
   Vice Chair Nassersharif presented minutes of Executive Committee meetings of September 12, September 19, and September 26. There were no comments.
   Vice Chair presented recommendations of the Executive Committee for the formation of an Accelerated Bachelors to Masters (ABM) Special Review Committee.

4. **REPORT of the PRESIDENT**
   It is currently URI Budget development time. The Budget will be completed and sent to the State House this week. The President anticipates a relatively tight budget year compared to prior Rhode Island revenue estimates will be available at the end of November on which the Governor will use to formulate the 2019-2020 budget blueprint. The General Assembly revenue estimates in May are typically better the November estimates. The President will keep the Faculty Senate informed of budget updates.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**
   Student Rights & Responsibilities Committee Report by Student Affairs Dean Dan Graney:
   Changes to Student Rights and Responsibility Handbook should be done every two years, the process is behind. Most are changes are to make the language clearer and are grammatical. Off campus jurisdictional language changes and a new code of prohibited student conduct with changes to follow the Federal law (Title IX), includes harassment, reasonable person standard, bullying, freedom of expression, and peaceful demonstration.  Makeup of Student Hearing Panels changed from one faculty, one staff and one student except for sexual misconduct. Senator Hicks asked about disruptive protests, Dean Graney replied language had been changed to include "peaceful demonstration." President Dooley asked to have the handbook sent to him -- Dean Graney will send

it. President Dooley also inquired about reference to dehydrated alcohol. Trish Morokoff asked about harassment in manual.

The University Manual revisions were presented to the Senate by Dean Graney. Senator Gindy asked if the changes were approved through CBUM. CBUM Committee Chair Hicks responded they were approved through the Committee.

- The University Manual changes to 5.74.20 and 9.21.22 were presented and approved unanimously by the Faculty Senate

## 6. REPORTS of SPECIAL and STANDING COMMITTEES
### A. Graduate Council Report:

Associate Dean of the Graduate School Rusnock presented report on dropping GRE admission requirements for the Master of Environmental Science and Management (MESM) and the Department of Communication Studies. Vice Chair Nassersharif asked what percentage of programs utilize the GRE as an admissions requirement? Dean Rusnock responded she was in process of gathering that information but believed that approximately 10 programs had requested to discontinue the GRE requirement.

- The changes to drop the GRE requirement from the Master of Environmental Science and Management (MESM) and the Department of Communication Studies were presented to the Faculty Senate and approved unanimously.

### B. Curriculum and Standard Committee - Committee Chair Senator Cardany:

1. **Curriculum and Standards Committee Report** #2018-19-2 was presented to the Faculty Senate and approved unanimously.

2. **Curriculum and Standards Committee -** Committee Chair Senator Cardany gave an overview of the coming year. The goals of the Curriculum and Standards Committee (C&S) fall within two categories, expediency and quality. C&S charge is to review courses and determine: readiness of courses to be offered to students; fit with the institution's curriculum policies including credit hour policies and instructional methods; any overlap and/or impingement with other disciplines and endorsement by department and school or college with commitment to delivering.
GE courses no longer get pushed to a second committee with minimum of an additional month for review.
Committee Chair Senator Cardany has met with Associate Deans, Deans, and Committee Chairs to discuss the course and program proposal process. Fact-finding information will be presented to the committee to use in making recommendations for improvements to the process.
The Committee has looking at various forms for revision to make the work of committee members more efficient and has begun to explore online submission systems, including CourseLeaf and Digarc.
Discussions of General Education outcomes were referred to the general education subcommittee, specifically issues of D1 and grand challenge items. Sub-Committee chair, Senator Hunter, has already succeeded in drawing out some guidelines for the full committee to consider when reviewing courses with these outcomes.

Proposals coming to C&S should require few or no corrections, with refinements such as syllabi details, stated learning outcomes, rubrics, materials, course descriptions to be made at the college, school, and/or department level. The C&S Committee's expectation is that with each successive level of review, less attention should be paid to the discipline-specific content of the course and more attention should be paid to how the course fulfills the institutional and/or school/college missions. This "division of labor" should result in quality improvements of courses in the university. One very pragmatic goal of the C&S committee is to identify exemplary syllabi that are recent and make it available to the community to serve as models for faculty in their proposals.

Senator Bovy, asked if the guidelines for D1 and GC would be shared - C&S Chair Cardany confirmed that yes, they will be. Senator Bide asked an organizational question, wondering if the Committee was successful in setting up the meetings on Thursdays? Chair Cardany responded that 2 members arrive late due to classes, but overall successful. Senator Gindy complimented Chair Cardany on doing a "fantastic job." Senator Cardany assured Senator Gindy that the committee was looking at all details on the revision of the forms, such as the Library Impact Statement - do all courses need them.

Senator Cardany said that the Calendar Subcommittee met to discuss having election day off as charged by the Senate at the September meeting. Faculty Senate Leonard asked if they could also consider looking at the number of days URI has for exams as it seems URI's exam period is quite long as compared to other institutions. Senator Cardany assured the Senate that the subcommittee was looking at the exam period, reading days, start dates, Columbus Day, among other issues.

Senator Hashemi from Ocean Engineering asked Senator Cardany about restructuring programs and new courses, and the order they should be proposed. Senator Cardany suggested that they meet one-on-one to discuss the process.

**C. Research and Creative Activities –** Committee Chair Senator Bide explained the Research and Creative Activities Committee is the successor to the "Council for Research."
Its broad idea is to "promote research and creative activities" the major responsibilities are: Internal Grants (proposal development, faculty enhancement), Approval/review of "Centers" (institutes, bureaus, partnerships...), and Overhead Distribution.
Chair Bide said it is a delicate line figuring out bureaucracy burden. Internal Grants due late November submissions will be decided?? in mid-February. The Committee is working closely with Vice President of Research and Economic Development Snyder to simplify submission, review and forms. VP Snyder may increase funding.
On the Centers Review Committee, Chair Bide explained that Centers at the University are problematic in that some are in the Manual that should not be, while others should be in the Manual but are not. He said they would be trying to maintain a master list of the Centers.
The Overhead Distribution subcommittee is reviewing the current year and will recommend changes for the future.
Senator Ruemmele asked how often a Center is to be reviewed, Chair Bide reported every 3 years.
Provost DeHayes said that John Knight, GSO, may have some information of the Centers on URI. Vice Provost Beauvais stated that Karen Markin also may have a database of Centers. Senator Gindy asked

about the internal grants, Chair Bide responded that he believed it was about $130,000 but thinks that amount may increase.  Senator Robinson volunteered there is some state funding included.

**D. Technology and Infrastructure –** Committee Chair Senator Ohley explained the general Committee priorities for the year.  The Technology and Infrastructure Committee (T&I) had a good first meeting with the Chief Information Officer (CIO), Karlis Kaugars. Discussion included lack of faculty input on IT and IT development issues. The next Committee meeting is the first week of November. Priorities for the Committee for 2018-19 include: increasing the Faculty communication with ITS especially regarding major issues; developing a method to formalize this communication process; E-Campus, software licensing, research application support; information and access by faculty to IT services; IT security vs. access and training: for both Faculty users and for ITS regarding Faculty goals.

Vice Provost Beauvais asked if the T&I Committee will be interacting with IT Gov. Chair Ohley said yes, he will be the face of T&I on IT Gov. Senator Bide stressed the importance of the Chief Information Officer Kaugars being invited to T&I meetings. Committee member and Senator Dekker, said that CIO Kaugars volunteered to be ex-officio on the T&I committee. Senator Reza Hashemi asked about the High Definition Computers and Performance Clusters there are some in Computer Science Department, but what about others? Are there areas where students can have access? Chair Ohley responded it varies by Department. Provost DeHayes said a study which took place 2-3 years ago worked with ITS and high-performance computing with 2-3 clusters in Tyler Hall. Next steps are to be determined-more clusters? Moving to the cloud? The Chair was asked about the use of an Adobe widget in relation to Promotion and Tenure by FS Vice Chair Nassersharif.  Vice Provost Beauvais said the URI is moving away from use of Adobe. FS Executive Committee Chair Leonard asked if T&I Committee coordinates with InfoReady. Vice Provost Beauvais said faculty are coming to her with software needs. How can she work with T&I Committee? How does it all integrate and what are the effects?  Senator Martin suggested a need for a central clearing house of available software and recommends that CIO Kaugars develop a master list of all software on campus, specifically specialized software, so that the help desk can have a master list to direct calls to contact people who can help and answer questions. Two questions, do we have software license and how much support does Faculty expect? Senator Krieger asked about the fate of Sakai and Director of Learning, Assessment and Online Education, Diane Goldsmith responded that a joint committee of ITS and Online Learning have sent out a survey about the experience with Sakai and teaching tools. Sakai is behind the curve, they are looking to do an RFP for bids for a new provider. Director Goldsmith assured the Senate that when a new provider is found, there would be an overlap with Sakai. Senator Martin mentioned URI has a full Google license, but URI does not use many of the available tools. Those tools will be rolled out.

**E. Constitution, Bylaws and University Manual Committee (CBUM) –** Committee Chair Senator Hicks stated that the goal of CBUM is to help to be efficient and effective in relation to the language used in the University Manual. If there are questions regarding language usage, Senators should approach the FSEC who will forward questions to CBUM for review and recommendations.

**F. Service and Community Life Committee** - Committee Chair Senator Ashley explained the this is a new committee to improve the climate of the University interactions of students, faculty and staff. The Committee has had one meeting and has looked at issues of accessibility, parking, work/life balance. They are considering organizing a URI Global week. Senator Morokoff asked the Chair if it sees the committee's charge that a climate survey is conducted on campus? Student Affairs and Community, Equity, and Diversity (CED) are entities that may have already conducted these. The Chair responded that they were not proposing a survey but were looking to identify areas not covered by the surveys. Dean Graney explained that Student Affairs is in the middle of conducting climate surveys. Senator Gindy said the idea of the Committee should stress is the value of service - elevating colleagues, as senators they are a representative voice and that would be of value. Senator Gordon said in terms of community life, URI has appeared on a list as one of the top 25 party schools in the country. What are we doing as an institution to stress the academic importance versus the party and fun component? Dean Graney reported URI has appeared on many lists but thankfully not in the top 10. Marketing and Communications is looking at where the lists are getting the data. The Dean stressed there has not been a drastic shift in terms of partying and substance use.

**G. Teaching, Advising and Assessment Committee** (TAA) – Committee Chair Senator David Byrd presented the charge of the committee: to develop policies and practices for departments and colleges to use to continue to develop high quality courses and curriculum; to examine state of advising across all colleges, making recommendations for improvement; assist in the establishment of a permanent assessment process for the General Education Program including review of current culture for assessment and the importance of program assessment to program quality; develop policies and practices departments and colleges use to continue to develop high quality courses and curriculum; examine state of advising across all colleges, making recommendations for improvement; assist in the establishment of a permanent assessment process for the General Education Program including review of current culture for assessment and the importance of program assessment to program quality. Committee Chair Byrd posed questions of the committee - asking with the move to professional advisors in some settings how do we get advisors to move beyond to other supportive functions? Where are we? Is it functioning? What are the outcomes of the professional advisors? Culture of assessment – how does it help to improve programs? How are they used? Honors Program how do we clarify the role of the Honors community so that the University sees its value? Senator Cardany asked if the committee could look at redundancies with institutional university and department assessments. President Dooley responded it is not entirely under our control as the University is at the mercy of our national accreditation terms and requirements which is distinctly different from specialized accreditation. It is a robust assessment culture that drives institutional change. Assessment is mandated. Provost DeHayes responded perhaps that Academic Review Committee could weave accreditation programs together. Vice Provost Beauvais said that there may be overlap with joint committees of LOOC and Academic Program Review Committee. Senator Honhart commented that he observed with the transition of Senate Committees there is overlap with standing and joint committees. Director Diane Goldsmith said her office would be delighted to work with TAA to simplify bureaucracy.

Faculty Senate Chair Leonard asked about utilizing a wait-list option for students as it reduces anxiety in students. Can the committee investigate it? Committee Chair Byrd responded affirmatively. Senator Bide inquired as to what percentage of students are professionally advised. Provost DeHayes responded professional advisors are primarily concentrated in University College. Senator Martin said her Department has two and a half professionals plus a Faculty Advisor who work as a team. The professional advisors do many of the repetitive tasks. Faculty advisors don't want to do - the intent to graduate and day-to-day advising. They want to work with the professional advisors. Committee Chair Senator Byrd remarked it would be nice for a technology solution for advising. Senator Ruemmele brought up issues of professional advisors giving wrong information.

**7. OLD BUSINESS** Senator Rummele asked if the Provost has decided about the election day this year being a university-sanctioned event. Provost DeHayes explained that after lengthy consideration he was not able to make this election day a university sanctioned event and had sent a letter to the Faculty Senate his regarding decision and outlining his rationale. He also mentioned although he believes in motions from the floor, he worries that there is not sufficient time to consider unintended consequences. The danger of motions from the floor is that issues may not be considered thoroughly. Senator Cardany assured the Senate that the Calendar Subcommittee is looking in the matter for future years. It was stressed that the issues should not be surveyed as a "day off" but rather a day of social engagement. Given thoughtful information the Senate usually makes the right decision, always aware of implications.

**8. NEW BUSINESS** – no new business

**9 MEETING ADJOURNED** at 4:50 PM