

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting

November 15th, 2018

Beaupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences, Room 105

1. **Meeting called to order** at 3:04 PM by Chair Leonard.

All members were present except: Senators Ruemmele, Sartini, Thompson, Uchida, Blanpied, Greaney, Kovarsky, Leedahl, Melanson, Ashley, Bide, Djurdjevic, Thulier, Kincaid, Loose, Kovoov, and Taveira. Others in attendance: *ex-officio* members President Dooley, Provost Hayes, Vice Provost Libutti, Interim Vice Provost Bodah, Vice President Rider, Associate Dean Seitsinger for Dean Rolle, Associate Dean Veeger represented Dean Kirby, Associate Dean Eaton represented Dean Riley, Director of Assessment Goldsmith, Student Senate President Wilding, Student Senate Academic Chair Morabito, Diane DiTomasso, Lori Herz, Kevin McCurdy, Bethany Miller, Kristen Johnson, Lisa Harlow, Cheryl Foster, Geoffrey Greene, Bethany Milner.

2. **DISPOSITION of MINUTES:** Minutes of the October 18, 2018 meeting were posted with the agenda. Chair Leonard asked if there were any additions, corrections to or questions about the minutes. As there were no corrections, the minutes were approved.

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

- a. Announcements

Chair Leonard thanked Dean Larrat for sponsoring the reception following the meeting and urged Senate members to stay after the meetings to take advantage of good food and camaraderie with colleagues.

- b. Activities of the Executive Committee

Faculty Senate Executive Committee member, Senator Honhart presented minutes of Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meetings #12 October 3rd, #13 October 10th, #14 October 17th. There were no comments.

4. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Dooley announced that URI was recognized as one of the five national finalists for innovative approaches to increase degree completions by the APLU (Association of Public Land Grant Universities) for a 2018 Degree Completion Award. He attributed this honor to URI's pioneering approaches for retention, such as the new general education program; professional advisors; and the Finish What You Started program. He thanked the Faculty and recognized them for the hard work they do with students.

The President announced with the Chair of the Faculty Senate Hillary Leonard, the creation of a Joint Special Committee for Graduate School Governance. The goal of the committee will be to review Graduate governance policies and procedures to ensure consistency between the Graduate Manual and the University Manual and come up with agreements for policy and procedures that empower faculty, encourage innovation, are easy and efficient, and to develop important areas of innovation. It will be convened by Matt Bodah and will consist of three Faculty chosen by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and three Faculty chosen by the President and Provost. The work of the committee will wrap up by March 2019.

5. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Director Rachel DiCioccio provided an Update from the Office of Innovation in General Education. The first year of the General Education Program was “wildly exciting;” and overall a great success; they identified new strengths and areas of weakness. The Program is on its way to accomplishing the goal of being an exemplary program. The second year of the program is hoping to be used to revisit the rubrics and make needed adjustments in terms of assessment.

Highlights included seventy-one new courses and seven Grand Challenge courses were approved since the Fall of 2017. URI was recognized in the May 2018 issue of Inside Higher Education for its new Gen Ed process. The office was called on to advise the University of Northern Iowa. Goals for the next year include increasing number of courses proposed, approved, and delivered: with Civic Knowledge and Responsibilities (C1); Diversity & Inclusion (C3); Integrate & Apply (D1); GC overlay; determine a formal process to begin assessing student learning in Fall 2019; develop standardized petition process across colleges and improve efficiency and clarity for recognizing transfer/study abroad credits. Two students, Maddie Marques and Jamie Legault addressed the Faculty Senate to speak about their experiences taking GenEd courses.

Provost DeHayes mentioned that CCRI is looking into redoing their general education requirements and is looking at URI as a model. He wondered if we would be willing to share our rubric assessment with them. Director DiCioccio welcomed the opportunity to speak with them.

- b. On behalf of Budget Director Linda Barrett, the Vice President of Administration and Finance Abigail Rider presented the [State of the Budget Address to Faculty Senate](#). This year’s budget is \$800.3M with \$443.9M in unrestricted funds, the state contribution is approximately 10% of total budget. The 2019-2020 overall budget request will increase by \$33M and increase unrestricted funds to \$461.3M. The Fine Arts Center renovation is in the 2019-20 fiscal year request for \$7.1M (\$6.4M FY2019).
- c. Vice Provost Libutti for Enrollment provided an update on URI Enrollment Management. In 2008 URI started looking at enrollment as a procedure. This year has been dismal in higher education, although not at URI. URI had its third highest enrollment (13,735 Under Grads, 3,018 Graduate), an increase of SAT average scores to 1185, an increase in the average high school G.P.A. to 3.54, and an increase in diversity to 23%. Graduation rates have also increased: 4-year graduation rate 53% (2017) and 67.3% for the 6-year graduation rate (2017). Finish what you started program has graduated 363 students and 150 are enrolled in Fall 2018. Most degrees awarded annually is 4378 in 2018 up from 2968 in 2009. Retention for first year students is 83.1% and is up for second year students to 78.1%. Special attention to first generation college students, Gateway courses and more strategic planning with undeclared students are key items to ensure retention.

Senator Aberdam asked how many undeclared first year students? On May 1 there were 500-600 undeclared students, at orientation that number was down to 400-450. Of the 400-450 undeclared students, most will declare a major by the second semester of the first year or by the first semester of the second year. Vice Provost said numbers of undeclared are going down. There is a need to work closely with undeclared students and be more intentional – allowing students to explore courses but reign in scope.

Senator Leonard asked what percentage of the student population are international students and is it expected to go up? There are 533 current international students' flat growth from last year. These numbers are being impacted by cost and political climate. The growth of international partnerships will help to drive future international student growth.

The University is intentionally looking at increasing student success, increasing the number of students from a larger geographic area, and increasing the opportunities for new students by aligning research interests with what is happening in the market.

Senator Echevarria asked if retention related is to courses taught by tenure track versus non-tenure track faculty. Vice Provost Libutti related that data does not support that non-tenure track faculty affect retention.

6. REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Associate Dean of the Graduate School Rusnock presented reports of Graduate Council reports, [Report 2018-19-3, Appendix A](#), which were approved unanimously by the Faculty Senate.
- b. Senator Cardany presented Curriculum and Standards Committee Reports and legislation, [Report 2018-19-3, Appendices A C](#), which were unanimously approved by the Faculty Senate.
- c. Update of Special Committee to Review Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Program (ABM) Kristen Johnson reported that the Committee has met six times since October 22 and is working diligently. They will have a full report available to present at the next Faculty Senate meeting on December 6, 2018.
- d. Senator Byrd presented a report from the [Ad Hoc Committee on Administrator Evaluation](#) which finished up its work over the summer. The Committee looked at what constituent groups should be included in the survey which the University Manual needs to more concisely define, they also looked at who should be evaluated. The format should be uniform with a Section A for standardized questions and Section B for college specific questions. The process should be more efficient. Senator Byrd reviewed the [Executive Summary](#) sharing that the committee did not reach consensus on who should be included. There was a method used previously in reviewing administrators which was not efficient.

Senator Martin asked were Administrators previously reviewed? What is the purpose? The purpose of the review is shared governance- with evaluating the performance of an administrator as a community, giving people a voice to review those above them. While anonymous, there still is a high rate of non-completion of the survey. Committee member Foster, said that the survey instrument should be retained. She commended Senator Nassersharif for the job he has done as the Administrator Evaluation Coordinator. Professor Foster pointed out University Manual language from 2007 and urged that the process return to its roots as it has shifted. Previously evaluations were done by letter writing which was ineffective and inconsistent.

Senator Gindy asked did the committee find the migration to an electronic survey lead to an expansion of the constituency group? Committee Chair Senator Byrd replied that the survey provides good data. Would it be helpful to have an expansion or does that take it away from its origins is being discussed?

Provost DeHayes said the old system of anonymous letter writing was not comprehensive and raised issues with the Faculty Senate. Provost DeHayes stated it is important to include staff in the evaluation process, that the inclusion of staff voices provide real value. The important thing is that the Evaluation process be taken seriously by Faculty as the results weigh into whether someone is re-appointed and can also lead to constructive change.

Ex-Senator Harlow wants to add an on-going group with a six-year term, a meta evaluation committee that would provide oversight, would represent the voices of faculty and staff, and would provide consistency. Part A and Part B could be processed through this committee.

Committee member Foster cited 2007 University Manual language on the Administrator Evaluation and how Faculty perceives Administrator Evaluation information as one element of an overall faculty survey in one portion of a comprehensive review. In 2014 review results were to provide feedback from the constituency.

Senator Sodhi said that the letters, one part of the review were a waste of time.

Provost DeHayes said it was one piece of a larger review and can live with either set of language. Surveys had a common set of information and the committee comes up with the instrument. Occasionally the tools went unchanged.

Senator Derbyshire said that Constituency for non-degree granting colleges (in a dean's evaluation) should include staff and faculty for their different views – they should define their constituency. Interests of Faculty and staff from degree granting colleges are different from Faculty staff from non-degree granting colleges.

Senator Gindy said that the wording of the University Manual that defines who are constituencies is still in place but does need to be consistent. Appendix A would be a good start.

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. **NEW BUSINESS** Director of Assessment, Diane Goldsmith reported on the procurement of a new system to replace Sakai. They are in the final stages of drafting an RFP which will then be reviewed by the CIO Karlis Kaugers before being sent out to purchasing. Vendors will have 30 days to respond. Any vendor with a score above 60 will be asked to come and make a presentation to the university.

Senator Martin asked of the results of the survey. Director Goldsmith reported the process, timeline, and committee membership can be found at uri.edu/online/learning-management-system-review/. She urged Faculty seeking more information to contact Kathleen Torrens, Committee Chair.

Senator Schneiderjans asked if there would be tutorials and presentations for the Faculty? Yes, there will be presentations under the RFP and they will have a strong plan for training,

Senator Stolt asked if other schools were polled and Director Goldsmith responded that many schools were contacted, particularly those schools that moved from Sakai to a new system.

9. MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN AT 4:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Benz