

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING #9 MINUTES**  
**May 7, 2020 3PM to 5:18 PM via WebEx**

- 1) **THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING** via WebEx was called to order at 3 PM by Senate Chair Nassersharif. All members were present except for Senators Hashemi, King, Kolbe, Leatham, Ruemmele, and Sodhi. Ex Officio in attendance: President Dooley, Provost DeHayes, Vice President Collins, Vice President Rider, Vice Provost Ako-Adounvo, Vice Provost Veeger, Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Libutti, Chief Info Officer Kaugars, Dean Boughida, Dean Corliss, Dean Ebrahimpour, Dean Kirby, Dean Liguori, Dean Riley, Dean Rolle, and Dean Zawia. Also in attendance: Associate Dean DeBoef, Associate Dean Reynolds.
- 2) **MINUTES** A motion was made, seconded to approve the minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting #8 April 16, 2020, and the Special Meeting of April 2, 2020, were approved.
- 3) **REPORT OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
  - a) Senate Chair Nassersharif greeted the assembly and reviewed the process and procedures for the Faculty Senate meeting. He recognized the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Faculty Senate, which was passed by the General Faculty on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1960. The actual Faculty Senate began its tenure during the 1961-1962 academic year. Chair Nassersharif shared a special song in celebration of the Faculty Senate's anniversary of its founding. He hopes there will be a multi-year celebration of this landmark beginning in the Fall.
    - i) Chair Nassersharif recognized the outgoing Senators and thanked them for their hard work during this challenging time of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**OUTGOING FACULTY SENATORS:** Eliane Aberdam A&S Music, Ben Anderson A&S Art, Michael Barrus A&S Mathematics, Kristine Bovy A&S Sociology & Anthropology, Michael Honhart A&S History, Justin Wyatt A&S Film/Media, Christy Ashley COB Marketing, Lenore Martin CELS Cell and Molecular Biology, Michael Rice CELS Fisheries, Animal & Vet. Science, Thomas Sproul CELS Environmental & Natural Resource Economics, David Byrd CEPS Education, Mayrai Gindy COE Civil & Environmental Engineering, Reza Hashemi COE Ocean Engineering Bahram Nassersharif COE Mechanical, Industrial & Systems Engineering, Peter Blanpied CHS Physical Therapy, Rebecca Robinson GSO Oceanography

Chair Nassersharif also congratulated and recognized the newly elected Faculty Senators:  
**Newly Elected Faculty Senators** Lynne Derbyshire A&S Communication Studies, Nancy Eaton A&S Mathematics, Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz A&S Political Science, Smita Ramnarain A&S Economics, Damon Rarick A&S Languages, Joelle Rollo-Koster A&S History, Christine Zozula A&S Sociology, Barbara Kaskosz A&S Mathematics, Linda Welters COB Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design, Evan Preisser CELS Biological Sciences, Michael Rice CELS Fisheries, Animal & Vet. Science, Ying Zhang CELS Cell and Molecular Biology,

Diane Kern CEPS Education, K. Wayne Lee COE Civil Engineering, Valerie Maier-Speredelozzi COE Mechanical & Industrial Systems, Lora Van Uffelen COE Ocean Engineering, Peter Blanpied CHS Physical Therapy, Chris Kincaid GSO Oceanography.

b) Chair Nassersharif presented the 19-20 Faculty Senate Awards:

**Fritz Wenisch Award for Exceptional Contributions to the Faculty Senate** was given to the Chair of the Curriculum and Standards Committee and the Vice-Chair elect of the Faculty Senate Audrey Cardany by Chair Nassersharif. The award is given in honor of the late former Senator Professor Fritz Wenisch, who was recognized for his breadth of knowledge of the University Manual and parliamentary procedures. Professor Cardany was given this award for her exceptional contributions to the Faculty Senate as Chair of the Curriculum and Standards Committee rigorous and the highest quality.

**The Sheila Black Grubman for Outstanding Service** The 2020 Sheila Black Grubman Outstanding Faculty Service Award is awarded to Professor Art Mead. He has served on several important committees, including the General Education Committee, the Curriculum and Standards Committee, and GEIST Committee, to name a few. Art has a genuine concern for students and has served as a mentor to many. He has led by example, never saying no to service. Provost DeHayes congratulated both Professor Cardany and Professor Mead.

c) Chair Nassersharif presented a proposal to change the titles of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee's Executive Officers. It came first and seconded from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The proposal was approved.

d) **Activities of the Executive Committee:**

- i) Vice-Chair Echevarria presented the minutes for notice of Faculty Senate Executive Committee meetings #39 April 7, 2020, and #40 April 15, 2020. There were no comments or questions.
- ii) Establishment of a Special Committee to Refine the Organization of the Curriculum and Standards Committee and Subcommittees
- iii) Report from Nominating Committee, Chair Michael Honhart thanked the hard work of his co- committee members, Senator Bovy and Senator Byrd. He then put forward Senators Meyerson, Rice, and Welters for two-year terms on the FS Executive Committee and asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. Senator Gindy opened the poll.

4) **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President presented the status of actions forwarded to him after April 16, 2020.

The President mentioned the new URI Board of Trustees would see the legislation on their meeting agendas and formerly “notice ” the legislation.

5) **SPECIAL REPORT ON ACADEMIC PLANNING FOR AY 2020-2021**

- a) The President said there are many important decisions to be made between now and the Fall with many factors to consider. He spoke of the open communication, hard work, and cooperative process that is taking place with Faculty and staff. The President went on to say that it is premature to make pronouncements at this point due to unknown factors that are not within the control of the University. He remarked there is a robust enrollment for the summer sessions, the highest in many years, which reinforces that the transition to online went well, and the feedback was good from the Spring session. One factor which will also determine Fall plans will be any emergency orders in effect in September. We are not in control – the virus is. A decision about the Fall will be made public around the beginning of July. There will be a lot of engagement with the Faculty in advance of this announcement.
- b) Provost DeHayes thanked the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Faculty Senate, and the Faculty at large for coming together during this unprecedented time. Students need support and help during this time of maximum uncertainty with internal and external pressures. The opening of Higher Education is scheduled in Phase III of the Governor’s plan. With the Scenario Planning for Fall 2020 committee, the overriding goals are to protect the URI community's health and vitality, sustain the financial viability of the institution, and ensure academic excellence. The Fall semester will be a new reality and an opportunity for a new invention and the Committee is striving for equity overlay for all scenarios developed. The Provost thanked Professor Yuwen Chen for advice on scheduling. His aim for the Scenario Planning Committee is to think creatively but keep it simple. The Provost presented a slide [presentation on the URI Scenario Planning for Fall 2020](#) during his remarks. There will be a form created so the University community can share ideas on Fall 2020.

6) **CONTINUATION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE** Results of the election of a two-year term for Faculty Senate Executive Committee –

- a) Senator Welters was elected to a two-year term on the Executive Committee b. Senator Honhart presented Senator Morokoff for a one-year term on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
- b) Senator Rice and Senator Meyerson were nominated from the floor. Senator Gindy opened the polling for a one-year term on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

7) **REPORTS**

- a) Vice President of Administration and Finance Rider provided an [update on URI construction and renovation capital projects](#). During the current COVID-19 Pandemic, the State of Rhode Island has allowed construction to continue, which has enabled people to be employed, kept construction costs down, and led to projects remaining on track.
- b) Director of the Office of Innovation in General Education DiCioccio presented Excellence in General Education Awards to Professor Tracy Proulx of the Department of Communication Studies and Professor Smita Ramnarain of the Department of Economics.

8) **REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- a) Senator Hicks, Chair of the Constitution University Manual and Bylaws, presented a motion to rescind Graduate Council Curricular Report #2019-20-5, presented at the October 24, 2019, Faculty Senate meeting. The motion was approved.
- b) Dean of the Graduate School Zawia presented the Graduate Council Curricular Report No. 2019-20-13. A motion to approve the College of Business proposal to create a new Professional Master of Science in Supply Chain Management and Applied Analytics (PMSCMAA), as specified in the Graduate Council Curricular Report 2019-20-13, was approved.
- c) Associate Dean of the Graduate School DeBoef presented Graduate Council Report No. 2019-20-14, with Appendices A-D for approval.
  - 21- A motion to approve the Notices of Change for Communicative Disorders and Electrical Engineering program as specified in Graduate Council Report No. 2019-20-14, with Appendices A-C, was approved.
  - 22- A motion to suspend admissions to the College of Nursing BS-DNP program and reconfigure prerequisites and requirements to the MS-DNP program as specified in Graduate Council Report No. 2019-20-14, Appendix D was approved.
- d) Senator Cardany, Chair of the Curriculum and Standards Committee and Associate Dean of the Graduate School DeBoef presented a Joint Report of the Curriculum and Standards and Graduate Council Report #2019-20-3,
  - i) Accelerated Bachelors/Masters Programs, Appendices A-C Motion to approve changes to the ABM in Computer Science (BA or BS to Cyber Security Professional Science Masters) as specified in the Joint Report 2019-2020-3 Appendix A was approved.
  - ii) Motion to approve the creation of an ABM in English (BA/MA English) as specified in Joint Report 2019-2020-3 Appendix B was approved.
  - iii) Motion to approve changes to the ABM in Nutrition (BS/MS in Nutrition) specified in Joint Report 2019-2020-3 Appendix C was approved.

- e) Senator Cardany, Chair of the Curriculum and Standards (C&S) Committee, presented a pre-recorded [Curriculum and Standards Committee Year-End Report](#). Three hundred eighty-five total distinct items received Committee attention, with time spent on General Education, New Courses, and New Programs ranging from 30 to 360 minutes. The Chair reported that the improvements from the previous year are working. The improvements included revised forms, consent items, notes from members before Committee meetings, and proposer communication before Committee meetings. The Chair noted the dedication of the C&S Committee members. Chair Cardany identified the Committee's needs: training and preparation for the review of documents, reducing the workload, refining the committee structure, and an electronic Curriculum and Catalog Management system.
- f) Senator Hicks, Chair of the Constitution, Bylaws, and University Manual Committee presented [Report No. 2019-20-4](#), which would provide a route for non-matriculated undergraduate students to matriculate through either the Office of Admissions or the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies, Office of Strategic Initiatives.
- i) A Motion to allow students pursuing an Undergraduate Certificate solely to be admitted through the Office of Admissions or through the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS), Office of Strategic Initiatives upon the recommendation of the appropriate admissions officer was approved.
- 9) **OLD BUSINESS** Chair Nassersharif asked if there was any unfinished business. There was none.
- 10) **NEW BUSINESS** Chair Nassersharif asked if there were any new business. There was.
- Chair-Elect Echevarria introduced a resolution recognizing outgoing Faculty Senate Chair Nassersharif for his leadership over the last year.
- Resolution for Senate Chair Bahram Nassersharif** *Whereas, Bahram Nassersharif was elected Vice-Chair and Chair-elect of the Faculty Senate in early 2018, serving as Chair from May 2019 to May 2020, and*
- Whereas, he has been a powerful advocate who has worked tirelessly on many fronts for the well-being of our community and our institution,*
- Whereas, he has brought calm during crisis, acting with poise and grace under pressure, successfully navigating unprecedented circumstances with a collaborative spirit,*
- Whereas, he has led the Senate to approve historic measures to ensure student success during the COVID 19 pandemic and masterfully managed the largest meeting in the history of the Faculty Senate,*
- Whereas, during a time of physical distance he has created social closeness and brought us back to our beloved Kingston campus through his green screen backgrounds and virtual receptions after the Faculty Senate meetings,*

*Whereas, he has led with a unique appreciation for the talents, abilities, and contributions of Faculty Senators, and with an exceptional level of good humor and selflessness, consistently making his Executive Committee feel like the coolest and most fun FSEC,  
Therefore, be it Resolved, The University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate extends its appreciation to Bahram Nassersharif for his exemplary leadership and dedicated service to both the Senate and the University and congratulates him on his extraordinary ability to lead with grace.*

b. Chair Nassersharif thanked the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and passed the gavel virtually to Chair-Elect Echevarria.

**11. ADJOURNMENT** Chair Nassersharif asked for a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 PM.