

Agenda
General Faculty - Graduate Faculty Meeting

December 11, 2014

1. Call to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Cherry Auditorium, Chester Kirk Building.
2. A moment of silent remembrance:

Grace Klein-MacPhee, adjunct faculty, Fisheries, Animal & Veterinary Science, Marine Research Scientist, Graduate School of Oceanography
3. Disposition of Minutes of General Faculty - Graduate Faculty Meeting of September 18, 2014 (attached)
4. Approval of degree certification for December 2014:
 - a. Provost DeHayes: Undergraduate degrees
 - b. Dean Zawia: Graduate degrees
5. Adjournment immediately followed by Faculty Senate Meeting

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

Minutes
General Faculty - Graduate Faculty Meeting
September 18, 2014

1. The meeting was called to order by Provost DeHayes at 3:09 p.m. in the Cherry Auditorium, Chester Kirk Building.
2. Provost DeHayes asked the faculty to observe a moment of silence in memory of the following faculty members who had passed away since the last meeting of the General Faculty-Graduate Faculty:

Richard E. Bailey, Professor Emeritus of Speech Communication, Department Chair, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Pei Wen Chang, Professor Emeritus of Fisheries, Animal, and Veterinary Science

William R. Ferrante, Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics, Dean of the Graduate School, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Acting President

3. The Minutes of the General Faculty - Graduate Faculty Meeting of April 17, 2014 were approved as distributed.
4. Approval of Degree Certification:
 - a. Vice Provost Beauvais moved to recommend to the Board of Education approval of the potential candidates for the award of undergraduate degrees whose names appeared on the list of graduates dated September 17, 2014 subject to certification by the Colleges and the Director of Enrollment Services. The motion passed.
 - b. Dean Zawia moved to recommend to the Board of Education approval of the candidates for the award of graduate degrees whose names are certified by the Graduate Council and the Graduate School for August 2014. The motion passed.

Provost DeHayes remarked that it is always great to graduate some students.

5. Provost DeHayes introduced President Dooley. President Dooley thanked Provost DeHayes and greeted the assembly. He opened his remarks by noting that the University had enjoyed, in 2013-2014, a highly successful legislative session which places the institution in a very favorable position for the future. He continued his remarks on the work and successes of the Strategic Budget and Planning Council (SBPC). He lauded the administrators, faculty, staff, and student members, current and former, who have devoted much effort to the effectiveness of the Council. He

noted that the charge of the Council is to set the budgetary priorities for the institution, reallocating or using additional resources, and to make recommendations directly to the President for inclusion in the budgets to the Council (on Postsecondary Education) and ultimately to the General Assembly. He noted the collective accomplishments of the Council over the past few years: increase of \$17 million in student financial aid since 2010, hiring of a Chief Diversity Officer, hiring of additional legal counsel, over \$300,000 in new graduate research assistantship tuition support, hiring an institutional review board Review Specialist, hiring staff for the Office of Experiential Learning, hiring a Disabilities Services Coordinator, hiring two Fitness-Wellness Coordinators, and hiring of 18 tenure track faculty members and 4 lecturers. These recommendations were made based on careful attention to the Academic Strategic Plan. The President highlighted an important recommendation in budget years FY16 through FY19: the hiring of an additional 40 tenure track faculty and 15 full time lecturers. The recommendation of these positions, the President said, are an outgrowth of efforts to meet the goals of the Academic Strategic Plan and the Transformational goals of the University. New faculty hires will be involved in new initiatives including the Nursing Education Center in Providence and the opportunities represented by the new Chemical and Forensic Sciences building (to be completed in 2016). Faculty will be hired, at junior and senior levels, in areas that will maximize impact on our strategic goals. The President said that it will be critical to enhance our research competitiveness and attract new funding to the institution by means of multidisciplinary, multi-scholar teams. He noted the creation of the new division of health sciences as consistent with the concept of collaborative research that will enhance the scholarly competitiveness at the institution.

The President will be requesting that the Strategic Budget and Planning Council consider starting a competitive research fellowship funded by the institution for short term faculty support for teaching relief, travel or other support of scholarly work.

The President reported on positive, record level enrollment at the University and the high academic qualifications, large size, and diversity of the entering freshman class. To continue to attract well-qualified students from a declining population of high school graduates, the President said that the University will have to continue to demonstrate inclusion and diversity through its facilities. He noted the creation of the LGBTQ Center, plans for a new Welcome Center, and new student housing. He added that the University will be proposing a new public-private partnership to develop property along Upper College Road (housing, hotel, restaurants, retail space). The President said that the institution also needs to continue the pace of development that it has begun in creating the 24/7 learning environment to help students graduate on time. Implementation of the new general education program, J-term, web-based teaching and learning, improving the gateway courses are important steps in that direction. The President said that, in addition to research fellowships, he will recommend to the Strategic Budget and Planning Council the development of faculty teaching fellowships to allow time off to improve pedagogy or improve technical or other skills. Fundraising will be critical to these goals. The President said that he is working with the URI Foundation. He outlined the plans to

build new facilities in the College of Engineering, citing the bond item that will be before the voters in November. The institution will launch a campaign to inform Rhode Islanders of the important investment represented by the bond. He noted that, although the bond is the largest ever (\$125 million) put before the voters by the University, the annual economic return to the state (\$142 million) of the College of Engineering exceeds the amount of the bond.

The President thanked the members of the Senate, all who have served on the Strategic Budget and Planning Council and all who have served on other important committees of the University.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. and was followed by a meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff for Bahram Nassersharif, Secretary