

Serial Number #17-18-12

TO: President David Dooley  
FROM: Mark Conley, Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL titled, Recommendations of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Restructuring of the Standing Committees of the Senate: Sections 4.20 – 4.34 and 4.50 – 4.70 Replacing Existing Sections 4.20 – 4.50 and 4.60 – 4.88 of the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate, effective for the 2018-2019 academic year, is forwarded for your consideration.
2. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on November 16, 2017.
3. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
4. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective December 7, 2017 three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; or (3) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum.



Mark Conley  
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

November 16, 2017

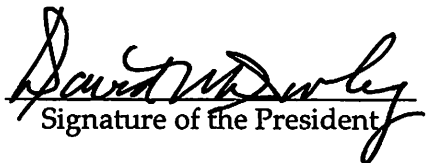
---

ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

- a. Approved .
- b. Approved subject to Notice of the Council on Postsecondary Education \_\_\_\_.
- c. Disapproved \_\_\_\_.



Signature of the President

3.30.18  
(date)

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Moved on October 19, 2017**  
**Returned on November 16, 2017**

**(effective for the 2018-2019 academic year)**

**New Sections of the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate 4.20 – 4.34 and 4.50 – 4.70**  
**Replacing Existing Sections 4.20 – 4.50 and 4.60 – 4.88**

**4.20 The Curriculum and Standards Committee** (henceforth referred to as “full committee”) shall also comprise two subcommittees, the General Education Subcommittee and the Academic Calendar Subcommittee. Each subcommittee shall comprise three faculty members serving on the full committee and three additional faculty members appointed on a staggered basis. The chairs of the subcommittees shall be appointed from the members of the full committee. The full committee’s undergraduate student member shall also serve on the General Education Subcommittee; the full committee’s graduate student member shall also serve on the Academic Calendar Subcommittee. An additional undergraduate student shall be appointed to serve only on the Academic Calendar Subcommittee. The full committee shall consider and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate on the items specifically assigned to it (see By-laws 4.21 to 4.25). The two subcommittees shall consider and make recommendations to the full committee on the items specifically assigned to them (see By-laws 4.27 and 4.28). The full committee may modify these recommendations prior to submitting them to the Faculty Senate, or disapprove of them without submitting them. The full committee shall meet at least once a month and present reports to the Faculty Senate as often as necessary.

**4.21 Curricular Matters:** The full committee shall study and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate (or return the matters unapproved, with comments, to the units from which they originated) on the following matters referred to it by the various colleges, schools, the Faculty Senate or its Executive Committee, the Administration, or from another authoritative source: The establishment, abolition, division or merger of colleges and schools of the University, at the undergraduate and graduate level; the establishment, modification, or abolition of general policies concerning academic requirements such as are included in Chapters 3, 5, and 8 of the University Manual; the establishment or abolition of undergraduate degrees or credit certificates awarded by the University in any of its divisions; the establishment, abolition, division or merger of departments of instruction, or other units or areas affecting instruction; the establishment, at the undergraduate level, of new experimental and interdisciplinary instructional programs not confined to one college; the establishment of interdisciplinary minors; the establishment, modification, or abolition of curriculums or programs of study leading to degrees or credit certificates at the baccalaureate level as well as the offering of existing undergraduate degree programs at the Providence campus, with due regard to requirements for accreditation when applicable; the creation, modification, or abolition of Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies concentrations; consider, in accordance with 8.20.62, options within major fields of study and recommend their establishment to the Faculty Senate if approved by the committee; consider and vote on exceptions to the P/F option for courses that do not fall under this option if this is

requested by a college, and recommend the exception to the Faculty Senate if approved by the committee; the introduction, modification or abolition of individual courses intended primarily for undergraduate instruction; the approval of new and existing courses for general education if in the committee's view, the outcomes proposed for the courses are clearly appropriate (if there is doubt about this, the course(s) shall be referred to the General Education Subcommittee for resolving this matter). No items of this nature (or of the items mentioned below or assigned to one of the subcommittees) may be approved by the Faculty Senate in the absence of a review by the full committee, except for the item mentioned at the end of 4.28.

**4.22 Academic Standards:** The full committee shall study all matters pertinent to the establishment and maintenance of high academic standards that may be referred to it by the Senate, the Senate Executive Committee, or other agencies; propose improved regulations and practices related to academic standards; observe the effects of rules for dismissal of students for academic reasons; review periodically the academic standards, rules, and procedures in the University Manual and make recommendations concerning them to the Faculty Senate; make policy recommendations to the Faculty Senate on all matters pertaining to the University College for Academic Success other than advising; and review and evaluate standards and policies concerning recruitment, admissions, and yield, except for the establishment of annual admissions targets which is the responsibility of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**4.23 Expediency:** The full committee shall recommend procedures that permit matters within its jurisdiction or the jurisdiction of its subcommittees to be handled expeditiously.

**4.24 Taking initiative:** The full committee may also initiate action on matters within its jurisdiction or the jurisdiction of its subcommittees by referring them to the faculties of the colleges and/or schools concerned.

**4.25 Liaison:** The full committee shall maintain liaison with administration offices such as the University College for Academic Success, the School of Professional Studies, and the Online Education division of the Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning.

**4.26 Workload reductions:** The chair of the full committee shall have his/her workload reduced by one-half of his/her normal duties, and the faculty members who serve both on the full committee and on one of the subcommittees shall have their workload reduced by one-third of their normal duties. There shall be no workload reduction for those faculty members who serve only on one of the subcommittees.

**4.27 The General Education Subcommittee** shall study and make recommendations to the full committee concerning the establishment, modification or abolition of General Education requirements for graduation to be applicable to degree candidates; consider new and existing courses proposed for general education which the full committee did refer to the subcommittee; evaluate the effectiveness of the general education program; maintain liaison with the University administration for effective implementation of approved recommendations; and cooperate closely with the Director of General Education (see University Manual section 8.--.)<sup>1</sup>.

**4.28 The Academic Calendar Subcommittee** shall study the University Calendar for fall, winter, and spring semesters as prepared by Enrollment Services in accordance with University Manual passage 8.70.10 and present it to the full committee, with appropriate recommendations, in time so that the full committee can report it to the Faculty Senate at its first December meeting; study the calendar for the fully-online accelerated program developed in accordance with University

---

<sup>1</sup> Section reference to be determined subsequent to passage of new language.

Manual passage 8.70.09 and present the calendar to the full committee by March 1 of the year preceding the one during which the calendar is to become effective; carry out all other functions assigned to it by University Manual passages 8.70.09-20; examine, cooperatively with the Graduate Council, such academic matters as may affect jointly the two committees; consider such calendar matters as may be referred to it by the Senate or its Executive Committee, and study, on its own accord, desirable changes in the University Calendar; review any proposed change in the approved calendar originating outside the Subcommittee and/or the full committee as well as any amendments attached by the Faculty Senate to a calendar proposal prior to Faculty Senate adoption of the calendar in its final form except that, if the Senate Executive Committee declares an emergency situation prior to the Faculty Senate meeting at which calendar proposals are to be considered, a calendar proposal amended on the Senate floor may be approved at the meeting during which the proposal has first been introduced by the full committee. Further, if, in the case of such an emergency situation, a meeting of the full committee is, due to time constraints, not feasible, the subcommittee shall report directly to the Faculty Senate rather than present its report via the full committee.

**4.30 The Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee** shall consider and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate on the items specifically assigned to it (see By-laws 4.31-4.34). The Committee shall study and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate (or return the matters unapproved, with comments, to the units from which they originated) on the following matters referred to it by the various colleges, schools, the Faculty Senate or its Executive Committee, the Administration, or from another authoritative source, or taken up by the Committee on its own initiative:

**4.31** The Committee shall promote good teaching, advising, and assessment at the University by conducting and reporting to the Faculty Senate an annual audit of programs, activities, policies, etc., which are available at the University to support good teaching and assessment and undertake each year, in cooperation with other interested parties, an initiative designed to improve teaching and assessment practices at the University.

**4.32** Further, the Committee shall assess university-wide advising and make policy recommendations to the Faculty Senate on all advising matters pertaining to the University College for Academic Success.

**4.33** Moreover, the Committee shall supervise the Honors Program (see [University Manual Chapter 8, Academic Programs, Sections 8.60.10 – 8.65.13](#)) and, in collaboration with the Director of the Honors Program, bring distinguished scholars to the campus for general lectures and/or other public programs.

**4.34** The Committee shall meet at least once a month and shall prepare and present, in January of each year, a report to the Faculty Senate including a review of current initiatives, policies, and practices as well as recommendations for future improvements.

**4.50 The Committee on Technology and Infrastructure** shall contribute to the development and maintenance of the strategic plan in collaboration with Information Technology Services and review and make policy recommendations regarding the implications on academic and research planning, standards, services, physical facilities, and allocation of resources on all matters pertaining to information technology, infrastructure, computing, communications, and networking.

**4.51** The Committee shall meet at least once a month and shall present, in February of each year, a

report to the Faculty Senate including a review of current facilities, policies, and practices as well as recommendations for future improvements.

**4.60 The Service and Community Life Committee** shall aim at supporting the mission of the university by studying and recommending policies to enhance effective faculty governance and oversight; the supportive and diverse nature of the URI community; and URI's engagement with the broader local, national and international community.

**4.61 Faculty governance:** The Committee shall study faculty efficiency in legislative decision-making and oversight throughout the university and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate aimed at enhancing this efficiency. To accomplish this, the Committee shall review and report on practices of faculty governance University-wide and within Colleges; offer training on best practices of faculty governance, including facilitating and encouraging best practices for college elections and recruitment; create and administer mentor programs for new faculty senators; monitor the implementation of Senate-approved initiatives and report any issues identified to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

**4.62 Quality of working environment:** The Committee shall study the University work environment and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate which will enhance the quality of this environment. To accomplish this, the Committee shall assist faculty with understanding of promotion and tenure policies; recommend policies that could assist in faculty retention, including matters of work/life balance; consider issues and make recommendations concerning areas affecting the work environment, such as transportation and accessibility.

**4.63 Community life and impact:** The Committee shall study the University community and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate aimed at enhancing this community and its impact on the broader world. To accomplish this, the Committee shall examine the meaning of a diverse community (including students and faculty interacting online); create, support, and promote events that foster a sense of campus culture, including efforts to foster a greater sense of unity among the university's different campuses; provide opportunities for interdisciplinary networking across campus; promote efforts to be of service to the wider community as well as to one another and to our students.

**4.64** The Committee shall meet at least once a month and shall prepare and present, in March of each year, an annual report to the Faculty Senate including a review of current initiatives, policies, and practices as well as recommendations for future improvements.

**4.70 Constitution, By-laws, and University Manual Committee.** This committee shall review the operation of University governance and propose changes in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Faculty Senate and in the University Manual; review proposals for changes in University governance from whatever source and make recommendations concerning them to the Faculty Senate and to the other appropriate bodies and individuals; construe the meaning of the Constitution, the By-Laws and the University Manual upon the request of the Senate Chairperson or Executive Committee, any senator or member of the University faculty, or the President; assure that all duly approved changes are incorporated into the Constitution and By-Laws and into the University Manual, and that no unauthorized changes are made in these instruments; and assure that the language of all duly approved changes is consistent with the style, format and arrangement of the Constitution and By-Laws and of the University Manual.