

URI Faculty Senate Minutes
Thursday, September 20, 2018
Room 105, Beupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences 3 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Immediately following a meeting of the General Faculty-Graduate Faculty the regular meeting URI Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:10 PM in in Room 105 of the Richard E. Beupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences, Chair Hillary Leonard presiding. Senators were reminded to reminded to sign in on the electronic or paper attendance. Non-Senators and students were reminded to sign the "Permission to Speak" form.

All members were present except for: Senators Robert Schwegler, Justin Wyatt, Joel Chandlee, Becky Sartini, Hiro Uchida, Christy Ashley, Martin Bide, Dara Schniederjans, Reza Hashemi, William Ohley, Diane Thulier, Chris Kincaid, Brice Loose, and Harrison Dekker.

Ex officio members in attendance: President Dooley, Vice President Snyder, Vice Provost Ako-Aduonvo, Vice Provost Beauvais, Interim Vice Provost Bodah, Vice Provost Libutti, Chief Info Officer Kaugers, Dean Ebrahimpour, Associate Dean Anne Veeger for Dean Kirby, Associate Dean Nancy Eaton for Dean Riley

and others in attendance: Diane DiTomasso from Nursing and Becky Sartini from CELS.

2. **DISPOSITION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Chair Leonard announced that the Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting #9, May 3, 2018 had been posted with the agenda. She asked if there were any additions, corrections to or questions about the minutes. There were none. Chair Leonard asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and the minutes were approved.

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

- A. **Announcements and Opening Remarks –**

Senate Chair Hillary Leonard introduced new Faculty Senate Coordinator Peggy Benz and the Faculty Senate Specialist Joanne Lawrence.

Senate Chair Leonard opened the first 2018-19 Faculty Senate meeting explaining that the new year has many changes. The Chair went on to remind the Senate of the committee restructuring goals: creating a sense of community, an opportunity for creating new and meaningful engagement and effective and efficient functioning of the Faculty Senate charge which includes: setting policy on teaching, research, discipline and government.

It is the hope of the Chair that the Senate feels empowered to exercise these responsibilities, efficiently, effectively, transparently, with trust in the expertise and good intentions of our colleagues and community and to have a good year.

The Chair recognized and introduced new ex-officio members of the Senate:

Gifty Ako-Adounvo, Vice Provost for Global Initiatives

Karlis Kaugars, Chief Information Officer

Peter J. Snyder, Vice President for Research and Economic Development

Chair Leonard recognized and thanked President Dooley for sponsoring the reception immediately following the Faculty Senate Meeting and encouraged all in attendance to join in, get to know colleagues better, discuss ideas and begin or continue to collaborate.

B. Activities of the Executive Committee

1. The Chair called on the Vice Chair Bahram Nassersharif to present the Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes of May 29th, June 5th, July 11th, August 8th, September 5th. There were no questions from the assembled Senators.

2. The Chair presented the work of the Ad Hoc Training Committee which met over the summer. The Committee developed “living guides” for Chairs of Faculty Senate Committees which will evolve as the committee structure evolves and smooths.

C. Recommendations of the Executive Committee

1. A motion was made by Vice Chair Nassersharif to approve the Faculty Senate Committee Appointments for 2018-2019 as appearing on the agenda. The recommendation was moved, seconded, and approved.

4. STATUS OF ACTIONS PENDING APPROVAL AFTER THE MAY 3RD, 2018 FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Chair Leonard reported that the status of the legislation forwarded to the President after the May 3, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting which has been posted on the agenda.

5. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

A. Associate Dean Rusnock presented [Graduate Council Report 2018-19-1](#) as an informational report. Courses included: **LHR 531 Labor and Employment Law, LHR 532 Seminar in Labor and Employment Law, LHR 533 The Business of Employee Benefits, LHR/HIS 544 Historical Roots of Modern Labor Issues, LHR 580 Professional Seminar in Labor Relations and Human Resources, LHR 551/MBA 572 Strategic Human Resource Management, LHR/MBA 573 Staffing Organizations, MBA 577 Management of Total Rewards, and MBA 578 Human Resource Development.**

B. Chair Leonard presented the [Informational Report from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the former General Education and Curricular Affairs. Committees Report # 2018--19--1](#). As there were no questions or comments, the report was accepted.

C. Chair Leonard introduced the Curriculum and Standards Committee Chair, Senator Audrey Cardany. Senator Cardany presented [the Curriculum and Standards Committee Report #2018-19-1](#) and explained section 1 of the Report was informational.

She called for discussion or questions on ten course changes, two existing courses seeking general education (**ECN 445 Senior Research Seminar, GWS 320 Feminist Thought Into Action**), four new courses (**BUS 410 Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Practicum, MUS 136 Music Therapy Overview, PSC 334 Government Powers and the Law, SCM 477 Harrington Field Experience**) and one new course seeking general education (**COM 250 Digital and Media Literacy**). As there were no questions or comments, Chair Leonard called for a vote and courses were approved.

Senator Cardany presented one program change - having no questions or comments, a vote was called, and the **Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design** program change was approved.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. President Dooley provided brief remarks to the Faculty Senate assembly.

The President explained instead of the annual "state of the university" address for the Faculty Senate he will hold "A Conversation with the President" Monday, October 1, 2018, 12–1:30 PM at the Memorial Union Ballroom open to the entire URI Community. He felt as this was his 10-year anniversary, it would be a good time to do a community (student, staff and faculty) address to share a retrospective of the last ten years and give a perspective on URI's priorities moving forward. Start of the year welcomed one of the most outstanding and diverse (23%) 1st year classes, with more honors eligible students ever, which will serve to contribute to a vibrant and intellectual community. The class of 2022 is better academically prepared than previous classes. The new Welcome Center is open - grand opening 9/26/18 at 10:00 am. The new UR ram sculpture is a gift from the Libutti family. Overwhelming positive response the new image of the ram for a different university from what we once were.

Notable URI news the President briefly discussed:

A URI led Consortium was chosen to be the recipient of a \$ 100M NSF Research vessel to be delivered in 2021. The new "state of the art" vessel will be bigger than the Endeavor and be a cornerstone of Oceanographic research and science. This positions URI/GSO higher globally. He acknowledged the hard work of Dean Bruce Corliss and his team did in attain the funding and winning the project.

Brookside apartments construction is going well and on time. The 500-bed apartment will house Juniors and Seniors.

Engineering building on schedule and Bliss Hall renovation is progressing ahead of schedule thanks to monies from previous the state bond referendums.

Capital campaign is on target for \$60 million in first year with expectation of many large gifts and donations in the next 6 months. Goal for URI Capitol campaign is \$250+M.

The President urged faculty to vote YES on November 6th on the \$75M Question 2 Educational Bond for RI Higher Education. Monies in this bond earmarked for new dock at Bay Campus, marine operations center, and Ocean and Technology Marine Center.

The public looks favorably on URI. URI has an 86% approval rating (+/-4% margin of error) with voters, which other universities would love to have.

There will be a public media campaign on #2 the Higher Education Bond issue as voting day draws closer.

B. Presentation by the URI Chapter of the ACLU by students Samuel Foer, President, Jay Rumas, Vice President, and Allison Lantagne, Legislative Correspondent, on obstacles to student voting. The study started out of a URI Rhetoric class assignment with Professor Collin Syfert. 200 URI students were surveyed on obstacles to voting, 40% could not obtain an absentee ballot and 32% could not get to a polling station with the main obstacle being class attendance. The student's stated that through action, URI can be an example and set a precedent of student voter enfranchisement. The mission of the University is to support learning and civic involvement. Allowing and protecting the civic right of voting in general and mid-term elections will remove the barrier to civic engagement. The students suggest that URI create a policy that makes general and midterm elections similar to a religious holiday or university sanctioned event, in which students must be given the opportunity to make up any work missed while voting. Students and Professors could be given the day off for Election Day.

Senator Derbyshire made a motion *to refer this topic to the appropriate committee to investigate having election day off for mid-term and presidential elections.*

Eliane Aberdam stated this should be one of the first items for the Calendar Committee. State workers get day off election day, though not Professors, faculty have to teach.

Motion was amended: *Send issue to Calendar Committee to study and look at accommodations for State Holiday for voting.*

Senator Byrd: Students would need to give professors notice. Senator Ruummele: students can take advantage of absentee ballots. Also, if you must accommodate even a small percentage of student in larger classes that would increase workload substantially.

Senator Hicks: Agrees on use of absentee ballots. In support of sending to committee for day of civic engagement for University community. Civic responsibility as citizens of the country.

Senator Nassersharif made an amendment to have the university manual sections 8.51.11 - 14 revised to include mid-term and presidential elections as university sanctioned events.

Senator Sodhi commented that if the calendar Committee cancelled classes for elections the amendment would be moot. *Amendment was seconded and discussed but NOT approved.*

Senators clarified that policy change is for General and Presidential elections and not for primaries. Discussion about the University calendar, how far does it go out and can it accommodate upcoming elections. Calendars developed for six years at a time. But changes can be made soonest 18 months out.

Discussion of availability of polling stations on Campus. There is a station on the Boss arena, but this will not address out of state students or those students who have not registered to vote locally.

Original motion proposed by Senator Derbyshire amended to refer this topic to CBUM committee to revise University Manual language as needed for excused absence for voting and the Calendar subcommittee to investigate having election day off for mid-term and presidential elections. The motion passed.

Senator Cardany questioned to student presenters if ACLU would continue to track if students were to take advantage of opportunity to vote? Student presenters answered in the affirmative.

Senator Gindy: The (Calendar) Committee had good debate and discussion on this. The Fall semester is very tight. Academic calendars are discussed and approved six years in advance. Changes to a calendar can be made up to 18 months before the calendar goes in affect but this timeline should be confirmed with Enrollment Services (Jack Humphrey). The last few calendars this body approved included classes on Columbus Day. The former Academic Standards and Calendar committee did a lot of work on this issue (during the AY16-17) and surveyed all undergraduate students and faculty. Both groups ranked having no classes on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as their number one preference ahead of Election Day. Other forms of civic engagement for those not voting locally, including working the polling stations, should be encouraged. Service and Community Life committee may also want to discuss students engaging civically.

Senator Hicks: Chair of CBUM Language is not a problem in long term. Short term may be a problem on syllabus. CBUM will be willing to take this on as it is not a bad thing for students to want to vote.

Senator Nassersharif made a second motion for the Chair to request that the Provost declare voting in the November 6, 2018 elections a University sanctioned event and subject to the policies under 8.51.12 of the University Manual. The motion passed with 1 nay.

Discussion followed on civic responsibility and empowering students to become more civically responsible and vote.

7. Meeting adjourned at 5 PM

APPROVED