


FACULTY SENATE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: URI Senate-eligible Faculty

FROM: Mark Conley, Chair, Faculty Senate & Senate Executive Committee Members 

CC: Academic Deans, Chairs, and Directors

DATE: February 27, 2018

SUBJECT: New opportunities in service to the URI Faculty Senate and reorganization of the standing committees of the Faculty Senate

After almost two years of deliberative discussions and multiple motions, the URI Faculty Senate is pleased to announce a reorganization of its standing committees. This reorganization incorporates a new membership structure and a new method of appointment that reflects a shift in Senate responsibilities. The Senate believes these changes will simplify and streamline our processes, as well as provide Senate committee membership with greater potential for effective, useful service. Commencing in the 2018-2019 academic year, the [By-laws of the Faculty Senate](#) will describe six committees, each comprised of a core of six **faculty senators** with student members as indicated. Two committees include subcommittees. Membership of the subcommittees, too, shall be derived from among sitting senators. Each URI senator will serve a three-year term on one of the standing committees or a subcommittee.

Faculty Senate membership will include not only the opportunity to represent one's colleagues in all Senate business but also to carry out the work of the Senate through a specialized committee:

1. **Curriculum and Standards Committee** *with the General Education Subcommittee and the Academic Calendar Subcommittee*
2. **Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee**
3. **Committee for Research and Creative Activities** *with the Competitive Grants Subcommittee and the Center Review Subcommittee*
4. **Committee on Technology and Infrastructure**
5. **Service and Community Life Committee**
6. **Constitution, By-laws, and University Manual Committee**

College representation from among the at-large faculty will no longer be solicited for Senate committee membership; however, faculty from each college, school, and/or the Library (as specified) will still be asked to serve on committees falling under presidential jurisdiction and Joint Committees of the Faculty Senate and the President.

At the May 2018 meeting of the Faculty Senate, returning and newly elected senators shall submit ranked choices of standing committees and/or subcommittees on which they would like to serve. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will use senators' choices to nominate members and chairs of the standing Senate committees and subcommittees.

Given the new opportunities and responsibilities that will come with service on the Senate, the current senators hope that all eligible faculty will give serious consideration to standing for election to the Faculty Senate in the coming months. The Senate will need committed and creative representatives who are interested in improving practices and procedures in curriculum, teaching, research, creative activities, advising, assessment, infrastructure and service.

The Senate leadership and Senate office stand ready to answer any questions you may have regarding this significant change, including any thoughts you may have regarding standing for election.