

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 19, 2015

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS  
OF THE 2015-2016 FACULTY SENATE

**SENATE CHAIR:**

**Joëlle Rollo-Koster**, Professor of Medieval History, College of Arts and Sciences

**SENATE VICE CHAIR:**

**Linda Welters**, Professor of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design, College of Human Science and Services

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cerbo, University Library  
Kathleen Davis, English  
Cathy English, Nutrition and Food Sciences  
Bahram Nassersharif, Mechanical,  
Industrial & Systems Engineering



**Joëlle Rollo Koster, Professor of Medieval History**

I am currently Professor of Medieval History and Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate. I joined URI in 1996 and followed the traditional *cursus honorum* from Assistant to Full Professor teaching, researching, and serving my department and the university at large. I have served on many committees and was chair of my department between 2011-2013, hence I am familiar with the running of the “big machine.” I have been able to be on both sides of URI, as a professor and as a parent. My two daughters graduated from URI. By now I have taught thousands of students in mostly General Education classes and can claim to have extensive experience with Gen Ed courses and students. In addition to sharing my passion for the Middle Ages with my students, my teaching goals have been to educate their minds, giving them ample opportunities to hone their critical thinking skills in reading, writing, and oral communication. I have also spent close to 30 years researching archives (especially the Vatican) and have produced several books and scores of articles. At this point in time I feel that there are many misunderstandings among the faculty and the broader community regarding what teaching and researching the humanities entails. This is one of the reasons why I think that my experience is an asset to the Senate. I am a big fan of efficient, constructive dialogue and I hope to have demonstrated this during this past year, levity and humor included. I have no claim or interest in an “administrative” career but I am willing to serve during what I consider a crucial moment of our university’s history.



**Linda Welters**  
**Professor of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising**  
**and Design**

I joined URI in a tenure-track position in 1981. Since then, I have served as department chair for 18 years and co-chair for 2 years. I have directed TMD's graduate program since 1989. My current term as Faculty Senator is my third. I also have many years of UC advising under my belt, plus two terms on the Council for Research. I co-chaired URI's Council for Humanities in its formative years, and was on the Board of Rhode Island's Council for Humanities for two terms. I am active in two professional organizations, having served for eight years as editor-in-chief of the scholarly journal for one of them. I am an active researcher and winner of URI Foundation's Scholarly Excellence Award (2005). I am committed to the research and teaching components of university life, but I am also aware of the importance of community outreach. I am invested in the successful launch of the new Gen Ed program, including the incorporation of arts and humanities courses into the offerings. During the past year I have had the pleasure of serving on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, JCAP, and an administrator evaluation committee.