

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2016

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS
OF THE 2016-2017 FACULTY SENATE

SENATE CHAIR:

W. Michael Sullivan, *Professor of Plant Sciences and Entomology, College of the Environment and Life Sciences*

SENATE VICE CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT:

Mark Conley, *Professor of Music, College of Arts and Sciences*

(Biographies follow below)

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Kusz, Kinesiology
Damon Rarick, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures (German)
Linda Welters, Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design



W. Michael Sullivan, Professor of Plant Sciences

I am a tenured Professor with over 35 years of University and public service experience. I served for a number of years as a University College Advisor, taught URI 101, have responsibility for our Departmental Internship program, served as Chair and other tasks along with other undergraduate and graduate teaching/mentoring responsibilities. My research and outreach responsibilities have helped to address environmental challenges and concerns across the landscape.

During the last two years as a member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee I have gained a greater appreciation for the diverse challenges of many colleagues and disciplines in these challenging times. Faculty voice should be an equal partner in University governance with administration. The Executive Committee along with a Committee on Membership and Voting Rights brought forth to the Senate structural changes to assure voting rights at Departmental, College and University levels for all full time faculty without regard to our divergent duties and responsibilities. I was pleased to be involved in this change. My goals would include continuing to advocate for all faculty voice and participation.

The programs and methods of teaching are changing and will continue to change as technology and disciplines evolve. The University has been able to make modest investments in classroom technology. During the last year and half as Chair of the Joint Classroom Steering Committee I have endeavored to make faculty priorities and classroom use guide these investments.

I am a strong believer in participatory governance and this is evidenced by my having served on the Richmond Town Council for 14 years, the RI State Senate for 4 years and as Director of Department of Environmental Management for 6 years. This blend of academic and government service is unique and I think has value at this time.

We have embarked on a path of new General Educational requirements. These will require a vigilance and heightened awareness to measure success and compliance with intent. It has not been easy or unanimous but I believe the continued efforts to refine and focus these efforts is an essential duty.

It is important to have a commitment to human development and community service and believe I have demonstrated this throughout my career. I am committed to the needs of the Faculty Senate and our community. If elected I am honored by your vote, support and continued engagement.



Mark Conley, Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities/Teacher In Voice

Mark Conley, a conductor, composer and singer, has conducted numerous choral ensembles from large high school and middle school festivals to small professional opera groups. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in the spring of 2009 conducting a performance of Haydn's *Te Deum for the Empress Marie Therese*. At the University of Rhode Island, he supervises the choral program and directs the auditioned Concert Choir and the select chamber ensemble Lively Experiment.

Winner of the Sadie Rafferty Choral Competition, his choral and instrumental works have been performed throughout the United States. He has also served as music director for numerous theater companies, as well as performing as an opera and oratorio soloist. He has directed or performed with such companies as the Aspen Opera Theater Center, Intermountain Opera, Ocean State Lyric Opera, Rhode Island Philharmonic, Papagena Opera, Ocean State Chamber Orchestra and the Bozeman, Helena and Butte Symphony Orchestras.

An active supporter of young musical talent, Conley is a frequent clinician and adjudicator. He also serves as faculty founder and sponsor of the URI student chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. With the addition of the graduate degree in conducting performance, he now serves as mentor to a new generation of conductors, some of whom have already established active professional careers.

Senator Conley served in the Faculty Senate from 2011-2014. He was re-elected to the Senate in 2015. He chaired the Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee for two years, remains a member of that Committee, and has worked diligently on the General Education Implementation Steering Team.