

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
February 23, 2017

NOMINATIONS FOR
SENATE VICE CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT
For the 2017-2018 FACULTY SENATE

(in alphabetical order, Biographies follow)

SENATE VICE CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT (2-year term):

Senator Hillary Leonard, Associate Professor, College of Business Administration

Senator Michael Rice, Professor, Fisheries, Animal & Veterinary Science, College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Senator Robert Schwegler, Professor, Writing and Rhetoric, College of Arts and Sciences

Hillary Leonard



I have strong views on the importance of faculty governance and the role of universities. I believe that faculty self-governance forms the bedrock of strong academic institutions. This requires not only the clear and transparent governance systems, but most importantly faculty actively engaged in the process. Strong academic institutions, such as URI, play a vital role in the world, the USA and Rhode Island by generating novel research and by nurturing thoughtful, analytical, and moral leaders who can address the complex issues that face society and business.

As a scholar in a professional school who believes in the primacy of liberal learning, I would bring a business focus on strategic value and commitment to efficient transparent processes.

This is my second term in the faculty senate (I previously served 2011-2014). I have served on the University Conduct Board (2008-2013) and University Admissions Advisory Board (2011-2014). I am active in the College of Business Administration and am currently serving as co-chair of its Task Force on Enhancing Student Success and as a member of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. I am active in a cross disciplinary effort to cultivate an entrepreneurial ecosystem on campus.

I would be honored if I were selected to serve as Vice Chair on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Michael A. Rice



Michael A. Rice is a Professor of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science at the University of Rhode Island. He is a graduate of the University of San Francisco (B.S. 1973) and the University of California at Irvine (M.S. 1981 and Ph.D. 1987). Since joining the URI faculty in 1987, Dr. Rice has maintained an active schedule of teaching courses primarily in aquaculture and fisheries as well as an active Cooperative Extension outreach program. Rice was the recipient three Fulbright Awards Philippines (1996-1997), Indonesia (1997), Philippines (2006), and has published extensively in the areas of physiological ecology of mollusks, shellfishery management, molluscan aquaculture, and aquaculture in international development. In addition to teaching, research and

extension/outreach, Dr. Rice has engaged in considerable service to the University as Chairperson of FAVS and membership in various committees, including the Honorary Degrees Committee and the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee as well as past service on the Faculty Senate and the Joint Strategic Planning Council. Highlights of his extramural service include service on Fulbright Southeast Asia Fellowship Panel and work on national aquaculture policy planning committees organized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

Robert Schwegler



I believe shared governance offers us a chance to enact policies and create structures with positive consequences for the lives of our students, our fellow faculty, and the community of Rhode Island. The more we can act decisively and thoughtfully, the better evidence we provide for the importance of shared governance. The Senate needs not only to react to problems and issues presented to us, but also to initiate new ways to bring excellence to our teaching, to our research and scholarship, and to our participation in our community as a land-grant university. I began my career with a doctorate from the University of Chicago in English Renaissance literature. While teaching at the University of Cincinnati and Syracuse University, I added a focus on rhetoric and composition/writing studies, including both textual and qualitative research. My teaching at URI has also

included courses in technical and scientific writing, business communication, and writing culture. My work has touched on the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and technical and professional studies, and my research bridges the humanities and social sciences. The breadth of the work we do at URI and our diversity is one of the joys of being a faculty member at this institution, and sustaining excellence in all these areas should be one of the most important goals of our work in the Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Byrd, School of Education

Senator Euler, Chemistry

Senator Sullivan, Plant Sciences and Entomology