

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
May 4, 2017

NOMINATIONS FOR 2017-2018 FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VACANCIES

(listed alphabetically; see statements below)

2-YEAR TERM (two vacancies):

Lynne Derbyshire, Associate Professor, Communications Studies, College of Arts and Sciences
and Director, Honors Program

Mayrai Gindy, Associate Professor and Chair, Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of
Engineering

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

1-YEAR TERM (one vacancy):

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

**2017-2018 OFFICERS AND RETURNING MEMBERS
OF THE FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

SENATE CHAIR:

Mark Conley, Professor, Dept. of Music, College of Arts and Sciences

SENATE VICE CHAIR:

Hillary Leonard, Associate Professor, College of Business Administration

CONTINUING MEMBER (2nd year of two year term):

Leslie Mahler, Associate Professor, Communicative Disorders, College of Health Sciences

Lynne Derbyshire



I served as a department chair for nine years, and have been director of the Honors Program for four years. I have also been on Faculty Senate, and served on a number of college, university, and faculty senate committees. If my knowledge of the university would be useful as a member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, I would be delighted to serve in that role.

Mayrai Gindy



I joined the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department (CVE) at URI in 2004 through the NSF ADVANCE program. My research is focused on structural health monitoring and non-destructive testing and assessment of highway bridges. As a faculty member of CVE, I have taught courses at all levels and served in a number of leadership roles focused on the mentorship and professional development of the CVE student body, including as an undergraduate academic advisor, undergraduate director, graduate director, and coordinator of FastTRAC5, the accelerated BS/MS program.

I have a strong, long-standing interest in academic service and I am particularly drawn to initiatives that promote STEM to underrepresented groups and support the academic aims of the University's mission.

At the university level, I have been an active member of NEAGEP (Northeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate), Academic Affairs and Diversity Task Force, Engineering Summer Academy for Young Women, Academic Plan Task Force, Graduate Council, Graduate Program Assessment, LOOC (Learning Outcomes Assessment Oversight Committee), and ASCC (Academic Standards and Calendar Committee), among others.

I have also held leadership positions, having served as President of the RI Professional Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and voting member of several national technical committees.

I am interested in serving on the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate because I am a strong proponent of shared governance and a believer in the power of the sum. If elected, I will work hard to support the interests of the faculty and advance the mission of the University.

Michael A. Rice



Dear URI Senate Colleagues:

I seek your vote to serve as your representative on the URI Senate Executive Committee. I take very seriously the charge of the Senate as having ultimate legislative power on educational policies subject to consistency with the general objectives established by the Council for Higher Education, and subject to the referendum power of the General Faculty and concurrence by the President. With your support, I will bring my years of experience as a department chair, and previous service on the Executive Committee with the goal of providing the best representation I can during these troubling times in which our basic academic values are being vigorously questioned across the country. Our practices of shared

governance at URI are foremost in my mind, and I will work hard to safeguard our shared values and mission of education, research and other varied scholarly activity, and service to our state in our land grant and sea grant university traditions begun so many years ago on the Watson Farm. I look forward to hearing from you and working for you this quasiquintennial year.

Robert Schwegler



I have always been fascinated by social structures and the ways documents and decisions shape them. I would like to put my experience with academic institutions, especially URI, to work for the Faculty Senate to help shape our institution for students, faculty, and community. As a two-time senator, I believe that the faculty's role in our institution is central, and that our expertise can and should shape its future and help ensure its smooth and just operation. I am strongly committed to aiding my fellow senators in the important work of the Faculty Senate through the Executive Committee.