

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
MAY 5, 2016

NOMINATIONS FOR 2016-2017 FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VACANCIES

(listed alphabetically; see statements below)

2-YEAR TERM (two vacancies):

Hillary Leonard, Associate Professor, College of Business Administration

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

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

1-YEAR TERM (one vacancy):

David Byrd, School of Education, College of Education and Professional Studies

**2016-2017 OFFICERS AND RETURNING MEMBERS
OF THE FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

SENATE CHAIR:

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

SENATE VICE CHAIR:

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

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

George Tsiatas, Professor, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering

Respectfully submitted, 2016 Nominating Committee,

Senator Kusz
Senator Rarick
Senator Welters

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.

Leslie Mahler



I joined the URI faculty in 2007 after earning a dual doctorate in Speech and Hearing Sciences and Neuroscience at the University of Colorado-Boulder. I received promotion to Associate Professor and tenure in 2013.

My career includes 23 years of experience as a hospital-based speech-language pathologist specializing in adults with neurological disorders prior to beginning doctoral studies in 2000. I have a long history of working collaboratively on interdisciplinary teams in a medical setting and

in research and feel this experience is relevant to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee because URI values collaboration across departments and colleges and in partnership with the community.

I am actively involved in clinical research and treatment on a multidisciplinary research project with Nutrition and Food Science and Kinesiology examining longitudinal changes in people with chronic neurological diagnoses such as acquired brain injury, stroke and Parkinson disease. This project involves undergraduate and graduate students from all three departments. I am committed to enhancing student learning in the classroom and in experiential learning opportunities and want to support faculty infrastructure for collaborative teaching and student access to experiential learning opportunities. This is particularly important now that experiential learning is an intentional part of the new general education requirements and a key to post-graduation success for our students. I would like to contribute to creating multiple pathways for integrating experiential learning into the curriculum for all students as a member of the Executive Committee.

I have demonstrated successful collaborations in multiple ways. I am one of the founding members of the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program and serve on its Executive Committee. This has given me experience creating a new program and navigating the challenges of collaborative teaching to provide a positive learning environment for students that includes stimulating research opportunities. I am currently a Research Scientist at Rhode Island Hospital collaborating on an interdisciplinary team that evaluates the candidacy of patients for deep brain stimulation surgery. I am also involved in state associations to reach the broader community serving as Chairperson of the Governor's Permanent Advisory Commission on Traumatic Brain Injuries and am on the board of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association.

I would like to bring my experience with scholarship, research, management, and clinical treatment delivery to the Executive Committee to participate in the decisions that will shape the future of URI along with the implementation of a new College of Health Sciences.

David Byrd

David Byrd Professor Director, School of Education. The concept of shared governance, fostered by a faculty senate, is a key component in the effective functioning of any university. Here at the University of Rhode Island our educational initiatives are positively impacted by engagement among faculty and administration. Efforts currently focus on enhancing student success, expanding research, scholarship and creative work, embracing diversity and social justice, prioritizing and implementing key concepts such as enhancing successful interdisciplinary teaching and research, strengthening basic and applied research to inform policy decisions, and expanding the development of both public and private partnerships that address State needs. As we address these and other issues we will face both internal and external constraints (e.g., tight budgets, level of state support, and calls for increased efficiency). Given this context it is imperative that we work together to find solutions to the societal, economic, and educational problems facing our state and nation. Having been at the University for over twenty years and having served as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for Faculty Senate—I know that as a community the University provides value for investment, improves the economic viability of Rhode Island I, provides access to students, and improves the lives of Rhode Islanders. Should I be elected to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee I will work to bring the voice of faculty to our efforts to enhance the University of Rhode Island.

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 on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.