

FACULTY SENATE

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Faculty Colleagues:

My sincere wishes to each of you for a productive and enjoyable new academic year! I hope you had a rejuvenating summer whether you took time off, traveled, taught courses, or worked on projects. For the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, it has been a busy summer. Many meetings were held including meetings with President Dooley and Provost DeHayes to assure progress on important initiatives and preparation for changes resulting from a new governance board structure for URI.

During the summer we focused our efforts on several priorities:

1. **Faculty Senate Committees** – With thoughtful deliberation, we appointed incoming Senators to appropriate standing Senate committees and subcommittees where vacancies had been created by outgoing Senators or resignations. We also appointed chairs of committees and subcommittees. We still need a chair for our Service and Community Life Committee and a chair for the Center Review Subcommittee. We held a meeting of the FSEC and the committee chairs prior to the Senate boot camp meeting on 9/12/19 for introductions and exchange of information.
2. **General Education** – The director of the general education program is a position that reports to chair of the faculty senate and is appointed for a three-year term. We have begun the process for evaluation of the Director's performance similar to our process for review of Administrators. This will be the first review of the position. Consequently, the process is being established and will be undertaken during Fall into early Spring semester. The evaluation committee will prepare a survey to solicit faculty input in the evaluation process. We also have discussed and will be asking the general education committee to develop a process and schedule for review of the general education program.
3. **Suspension or Abolishment of Programs and Departments** – During the summer, we were contacted by some faculty inquiring about the URI process for suspension or abolishment of programs. We discovered that programs in several colleges were being suspended or terminated without following the process outlined in the University Manual. We met with the faculty and chairs of two of the programs and met with Deans and the Provost to review the process that must be followed before programs are suspended or terminated. We will continue our efforts to communicate the process to faculty and administrators and bring into compliance those programs that may not have followed an appropriate process.

4. **Formation of Committee on Minor Programs of Study** – Following Senate discussion and approval to further simplify and facilitate minor programs of study, we formed a committee with following charge:

Charge to Special Committee on Minors:

Following deliberations of the senate on minor programs of study and the sentiment to make the manual language more clear and more straightforward for programs to engage in the offering of minor programs of study, the FSEC is forming a special committee to review this matter and report back to the FSEC no later than October 31, 2019 with findings and recommendations for changes to the university manual with the following provisions:

1. Examine the current policy and manual language for minor programs. Suggest any revisions necessary to make the manual language more precise and provide requirements for facilitating minor programs.
 2. Examine and if required, suggest changes to current URI policy on the continuation of a minor into a major pre- or post-graduation.
 3. Examine and if necessary, suggest revisions to current URI policy on completion of a minor program of study post-graduation.
5. **Administrator Evaluations** – During academic year 2019-2020, administrative reviews of President Dooley and Deans Riley, Richmond, and Rolle will be undertaken. Faculty participation in the administrative review committees and the review process is extremely important. Please consider nominating colleagues (or yourself) for the administrative review committees and participate in the review process by completing the evaluation forms/surveys that will be sent to you.
 6. **Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Review of Graduate School/Council Governance in Regard to Policies and Procedures** – President Dooley, Provost DeHayes, Chair Leonard, and Vice Chair Nassersharif formed a joined team (the Principals) to address some concerns regarding policies and procedures of the graduate school/council. The Principals created and charged an ad hoc committee in November 2018 to review the graduate school/council governance in regard to policies and procedures. The ad hoc committee completed their work in March 2019 and submitted their report to the Principals in April 2019. The Principals met during the summer and arrived at a joint response to the committee’s report. We will present the result of this work at the Senate meeting on September 19.
 7. **New Governance Structure for URI** – President Dooley will present information on the new board structure for URI on September 19. This new governance structure for URI will begin on February 1, 2020. There are many implications for changes to the University Manual and the Faculty Senate. We are optimistic about the changes and look forward to working with President Dooley in shaping the relationship between the Faculty Senate, shared governance, the new board of trustees for URI.

I encourage all faculty and particularly faculty Senators to prepare for and attend Senate meetings, participate in the discussions and decisions of the Senate, and attend the receptions that follow. The receptions that follow the Senate provide an informal but very important forum for networking and building alliances for working together. I also invite and encourage you to attend the social events and special events of the University.

We are organizing two meetings of the general faculty in collaboration with the President and Provost. On September 19, 3:00-3:45 P.M. President Dooley will address the faculty and discuss the new board structure and implications for URI. I encourage you to attend the general faculty meeting as well as Faculty Senate meeting that will follow the President's address.

You can make a difference in the future of the University, the Senate, your colleges, departments, and yourselves by engaging in Faculty Senate initiatives and providing input to the committees. Encourage your colleagues to participate; bring your/their ideas and concerns forward to work together for the betterment of URI.

Please contact me or any member of the Executive Committee with any ideas or suggestions.

I look forward to working with each of you during the academic year 2019-2020. I wish each of you an enjoyable and productive new academic year.



Bahram Nassersharif, Ph.D.
Chair, URI Faculty Senate

For more information, please visit the Faculty Senate Website: <http://www.uri.edu/facsen/>