

Executive Committee Meeting
November 14, 2017
Minutes

Attendees: President Farish, Provost Workman, Senate President Bosco, Senate VP Academic Matters Soto, Senate VP University Matters Moskowitz

Items from November 1, 2017 Faculty Senate Meeting

Pending

Provisional registration held through the last day of classes of the relevant semester for students with a Bursar hold - this has policy implications, so should work with Dan O'Driscoll. This is tied to having bills paid. Holding registration is a way to encourage students who are not current to pay their outstanding balances. At this time there are provisions made on an individual basis as needed. It was also reported that the wait list for courses is functioning.

Follow up on Livingston property usage plan - at this time there is no plan as the property purchase has not been finalized. (since this meeting the purchase was completed)

List of new members of Board of Trustees - Received from Ed Fitzpatrick

Informational

Motion - That the Academic Standards Committee investigate the policy regarding online courses, with special attention to the issue of whether first year students (students who have completed fewer than 30 credits) should be allowed to enroll in them (Bosco, O'Connell).
Passed 20 - 0 - 1.

Move to authorize (Speakman, Shelton) – Senate President to resolve committee memberships for Study Abroad and Library. Passed unanimously
Library – 2 Senate volunteers – Joseph Roberts and Jennifer Stevens
Study Abroad – Election - tenured professors who have led a study abroad in the last two years

New Business

Motion - The Faculty Senate recommends that retired faculty members retain membership on the All-Faculty email list (Speakman, Moskowitz). Passed 15 - 3 - 2

- It was asked whether there was an option for read only access for All Faculty email list. There is not and employment status is the determining factor to allow access.

Move that EC bring to its meeting a request for clarification on the policy regarding access to the All University email list and to relay the FS concern about unequal access (Speakman, O'Connell) Passed unanimously.

- The Provost will check on this due to the unequal access issue.

Motion – Have program directors have access to teaching evaluations of their full-time and adjunct faculty members (Shelton, Moskowitz). Passed unanimously.

- The Provost said this would be provided.

President Farish initiated a discussion about the School of Continuing Studies.

The infrastructure in Bristol is not a good fit for the needs of SCS as their calendar and fee structure differ from those for the traditional student support systems that exist in Bristol. President Farish indicated concern about the wisdom of relying on residential students as sole sources of revenue.

There are academic concerns also in that some courses must be reauthorized for scheduling in SCS on a semester-by-semester basis. Credentialing of course delivery in Providence is a problem.

SCS hosts non-credit bearing courses, as well as full degree-bearing programs that are not duplicates of programs at the Bristol campus, rather they serve a working adult population. This creates challenges there for course offerings. It is acknowledged that course content is the purview of the faculty. There are managerial decisions involved, however, with course offerings, such as staffing of the courses. The EC asked whether there is a curriculum development process for SCS as well as whether there is an overall plan for the future of the Providence campus.

President Farish acknowledged that the Providence campus is a different beast from the Bristol campus and that in some cases, RWU needs to move quickly on decisions regarding programs and participants that come into play in Providence. The President and Provost responded that there are a variety of programs offered there that don't fit the traditional Bristol model, such as non-credit-bearing programs and other programs offered ad hoc as requested by agencies/organizations. Programs (e.g: corporations, agencies, schools, local governments, federal government, etc.) often solicit RWU to work with/house them, and in some cases, to work through various subsidized ways to provide low-cost programs. Other times opportunities appear—for example, Brown University is letting go of its ties to the Annenberg Foundation, and this might be the sort of enterprise RWU would adopt. (And indeed, two programs from the Annenberg Institute for School Reformed transition to RWU SCS the day before the Executive Committee meeting: <http://www.annenberginstitute.org/media-center/news/brown-university-and-roger-williams-university-announce%E2%80%8B-transition-two-programs-a>) This can make it a challenge to have a clear plan on what we are doing in Providence. It also appears the certain administrative offices on the Bristol campus, for example the Bursar and Registrar Offices, are inadequate for dealing with issues particular to the Providence campus. This will require some reinvention.

Current enrollment is 1800 in 15 programs. President Farish stressed again that the Board of Trustees' commitment to maximizing the progress of the Providence campus. The plan is to grow enrollment to 3000 in three years.

President Farish stated that it will be important to be wise about the RWU Business Plan moving forward.

The EC requested a report/snapshot of current programs offered by SCS, both degree-granting and others that are in process. The EC realizes that this is not a static picture, but would like a better understanding of the types of programs being offered, the nature of partnerships and subsidies, etc. as they are different from those provided by the Bristol schools. The Faculty Senate will be provided with this report.

The EC outlined the Senate's plan to have committees work with SCS to clarify processes and procedures for the following:

Course delivery - Academic Standards

Adjunct hiring - Faculty Development

Curriculum management - Academic Standards

The President and Provost would like to work with these committees about their results.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Bosco, Dave Moskowitz, Renee Soto
Executive Committee, Faculty Senate

