

Roger Williams University
Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Notes
September 7th, 2018

Present: A. Workman, R. Cole, S. Bosco, R. Soto, A. Updike, L. D'Amore

Faculty Senate President Bosco updated the Interim President, A. Workman, and the Acting Provost, R. Cole, about the following outcomes of the Faculty Senate Meeting on 9/5/18:

News:

Senator Jennifer Pearce will be the Faculty Senate representative at the Provost's Council –

Faculty Senate Committee updates:

The following concerns of the Faculty Senate have been referred to Faculty Senate Committees for further investigation:

A motion was passed in the Faculty Senate to task the Steering Committee with gathering information and reporting to the Senate on the Career Center (staffing, resources, alumni relations, student services).

A. Workman recommended inviting Bob Shea to the discussion

R. Cole noted that there was a new hire recently, and that they are testing a software that can track alums

A motion was passed in the Faculty Senate to task the Admissions and Enrollment sub-committee with inquiring about the Academics 101 aspect of orientation, including reaching out to Bob Shea and Allison Chase-Padula.

A motion was passed in the Faculty Senate to task University Life with communicating concerns about the new Commencement ceremony style.

A. Workman noted that next year there will be a separate grad student commencement

A motion was passed in the Faculty Senate to task the Admissions and Enrollment sub-committee to investigate concerns about how students are charged tuition for one course during the summer vs regular AY

R. Cole noted that the information seemed incorrect, and recommended reaching out to Deb Sylvia about policy and price structure.

Motions:

The Faculty Senate passed a motion offering condolences to Maia Farish after the passing of President Donald Farish

The Faculty Senate passed a motion regarding the Board of Trustees' procedure for the Presidential Search, namely the closed, confidential nature of the search.

The motion was sent to the Board of Trustees, with a response requested by 9/20

The Faculty Senate passed a change to Senate Constitution that is related to some committee structures

The Elections Committee will be conducting elections to repopulate the Gen Ed committee to create rotating term limits as per Faculty Senate Motion approved at the May meeting.

Board Liaisons will be elected before the October Board of Trustees meeting

S. Bosco opened the meeting to questions and comments

A. Workman noted that he is working on a budget strategy, matching revenue to expenditures. He will utilize the State of University address for this purpose.

A. Workman also expressed support for the work that the Faculty Senate does, especially through its committees. If we want Cabinet members to attend committee meetings or Senate meetings, let him know.

S. Bosco asked about the new pricing model that A. Workman had mentioned during his comments at the Faculty Senate meeting

A. Workman noted that it is about pulling together lots of pieces of info to figure out where we should be in terms of necessary tuition, this is about net price. Pricing is also part of the perception of the University - what people expect when they pay—is it “generic” or “name brand” and there is a perception that RWU is more generic than name brand because the price hasn't been raised and we would like to address that, perhaps with the new pricing structure

One question is whether to continue 4-year guarantee, or to re-package that. Another relates to looking at market surveys, competitors, types of Financial Aid awards.

One potential retention strategy might be a merit retention scholarship. We lose some of our better students in 2nd year – looking at Financial Aid as a retention tool. Our 2nd biggest loss is in students after the 1st year.

Also looking at processes across campus to look at how they affect students, in shared efforts to get student success up.

Follow up discussions:

Use of lab fees - Bosco met with Finance and there will be examination of these and outreach to some of the department chairs to develop a better model.

ASEM process - R. Cole will be working on this with follow-up on some of the proposals that could be implemented for fall 2020.

SASH - R. Cole offered to continue discussion on perhaps a hybrid model that would allow this program to continue

Status of University Resources - We asked whether university resources, particularly the registrar, the bursar, and the bookstore are sufficient to address the needs of both RWU-Bristol and RWU-University College—we were told “yes, for now.”

SECCM Building - President Workman said Shawmut Construction donated construction fees to help with the expenses on our end. He reminded us of the noise factor with the new construction and said the schedule is to begin the steel portion of the project during wintersession (a construction schedule has since been sent to the University at large)

Commencement ceremonies - There will likely be a separate graduation ceremony for graduate schools going forward, similar to that done by the Law School. The Graduate Council is working on this.

Updated organizational chart - acknowledging the challenges of that this year, we were assured one would be available soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura D’Amore, Recording Secretary