

Executive Committee Meeting  
September 12, 2017  
Minutes

Items from September 6, 2017 Faculty Senate Meeting

- Faculty Senate calls upon President Farish to investigate the earliest inhabitants of the property on which the University stands (Soto,O’Connell). Passed 19-0-2.

President Farish: The Indigenous People’s Day Committee had their first meeting on September 14, 2017. We will incorporate this motion into that Committee’s work, especially with discussion about Brown University and the Haffenreffer property. We cannot be critical of Brown University without us doing anything.

Vice President Soto asked about the membership of the committee.

Professor Charlotte Carrington-Farmer  
Professor Anne Winfield  
Reverend Nancy Soukup  
Students selected via the Student Senate

President Farish is impressed by the work faculty and students have done on this committee thus far.

Vice President Soto indicated that the Faculty Senate would also like to see the contributions of the first peoples on campus to be memorialized.

President Farish agreed that the first peoples on campus will be investigated and memorialized.

The question of terms was raised in the Executive Committee meeting in the same way as in the Senate meeting—“first peoples” “first nation” “earliest inhabitants” etc. It was agreed that there are multiple layers of complexities to the conversation; this is just one of them.

- Hiring processes for adjuncts: Move to Charge the Executive Committee with verifying these (Roberts/Speakman). Passed unanimously.
  - Should there be a common practice? Should it be published?

Provost Workman acknowledged that departments tend to handle this their own ways, and noted that most recommendations for the hiring of an adjunct go from a faculty committee to their dean, but this is not consistent across all departments and has become a recurring point of concern for some faculty. The Provost does not know whether there needs to be a standard practice given the differing hiring needs across each school.

Vice President Moskowitz noted that there is the appearance of a lack of fairness because faculty in some schools have a more active role in making recommendations for the hiring of adjuncts

than faculty in other schools. And from personal experience, perhaps students in schools with a dean centric hiring approach would benefit from the input of faculty in that academic area.

Provost Workman said that he would revisit this with the Deans, and that there are two perspectives on this issue.

- Move that the Executive Committee clarify the status of the MBA program at its next meeting Executive Committee Meeting with President Farish and Provost Workman (Speakman, Moskowitz). Passed unanimously.
  - On the website the MBA is not identified as a 4+1 but as a regular MBA program

Provost Workman stated that because of a computer error in moving the information about the MBA program from one page on the University website to the Graduate School page on the website, the “+1” was dropped from the text copy. The error was corrected and if not, please let him know.

- Open Houses/Accepted Student Days - Move to Charge the Executive Committee to bring this item to the President/Provost (Topf/Stevens). Passed unanimously.
  - Is the plan to reduce these numbers from last year due to staff and faculty fatigue?

President Farish indicated that there are fewer ASDs this year than last, moving from six events to four, and that yes, this is in large part due to fatigue of faculty, staff, facilities, and to the February schedule of activities. These ASDs will be supplemented with opportunities for faculty to interact with students. Regional ASDs will also take place and faculty who may be in the region on a conference may participate. President Farish added that Open Houses will be reduced from 4, last year, to 3 this year, partly due to Raptor Weekend at the Audubon Society and the subsequent traffic snarls.

Vice President Soto asked whether information detailing the numbers of students who attend Open House and ASD events and the numbers of students who actually apply, are admitted, and attend RWU will be shared with faculty. The Provost indicated that yes, this information will be made available to faculty and that Brian Williams would like to visit academic departments to talk about recruitment efforts.

Provost Workman suggested that Brian Williams be invited to the Faculty Senate to share his wealth of information about planned ASDs and other recruitment efforts and that a 5-Year Plan is being developed. There will be an October rollout of all of this information by the Provost, Bob Cole, and Brian Williams. The Provost also said he would like to be invited to attend Senate Committee Meetings.

President Bosco asked if there would be a different format to Open Houses this year.

Provost Workman said that he doesn't know. President Farish stated that a change in format has not been brought up in conversations.

- Construction/building planning process: Move to Charge the University Life Committee to obtain updates (Stevens/Speakman). Passed 19-1-0.

President Bosco stated that the FS University Committee will be the committee to contact for projects going forward.

President Farish stated that discussion of this topic will be part of his State of the University Address in September 13, 2017. We need to get 40 years of use out of any building project undertaken on campus, and this will be directly impacted by the nature of the student, eg: graduate or undergraduate, so this will be a long process. There will be a graduate architecture class this spring semester that will work with the architecture firm in residence to help guide the process.

- Sustainability subcommittees: Move to Charge the Elections Committee to populate these subcommittees (Bosco/Speakman). Passed unanimously.

President Bosco noted that elections would commence to populate these committees.

### **Pending Items**

- Compensation for school/college curriculum committee chairs during this year of transitional work as a result of the reorganization FCAS into two schools – due to financial implications, has priority.

Provost Workman acknowledged that he agreed to compensation in an Executive Committee meeting last spring, but he needs to look at his notes regarding the specifics. Vice President Soto asked whether compensation would be time (course release) or money (stipend). Provost Workman said it would be financial compensation, because he needs full-time faculty to be in the classroom.

- Campus Master Plan (see above discussion regarding Construction motion)
- Capital campaign plan

President Bosco asked if there were plans for a Capital Campaign.

President Farish said no. There are campaign-lettes that are initiated as needs appear for small things: Civic Scholars, and the Engineering building., Renovations in Feinsteinare being funded with CAPEX monies. Provost Workman noted that Associate Dean Jeffrey Meriwether has been the point person for FCAS upgrades/updates. The Senate was directed to check with Dean Meriwether about the a/c issues on the second floor of FCAS and other building concerns. It was noted that CAPEX is not a campaign-lette.

President Farish stated that there is a new CAPEX list, following the projects on the deferred maintenance list.

Vice President Soto asked if we need a Capital Campaign.

President Farish stated that Campaign Campaigns need to be properly planned, for specific needs. He had tested the waters for a campaign a few years by contracting a company to do an exploratory assessment of what a reasonable capital campaign yield would be, but the company determined the net would be small, \$10 million, and not worth the effort and the time. President Farish would prefer to get our needs in order first, and then talk about a campaign to fund them.

Vice President Soto inquired whether there were campaign-lettes in the pipeline?

President Farish did not name any specific campaign-lettes, and responded that any will become part of our master planning exercise; The exercise would include studying where needs exist, and how those needs can be addressed..

Provost Workman noted that the former ELS facility in Stonewall is being fixed up, and renovations are in process for the Business School as the result of a grant.

President Farish suggested that a list of CAPEX projects could be distributed.

- Receipt of Cost Center Analysis

Provost Workman said that the analysis is close to be completed. There was an error in the model, for example, a dean teaching a course resulted in the cost being way off (deans teach for free, but the program had incorrectly inflated the cost). The analysis will be presented to the Board at their October meeting. We will then go out and discuss the analysis with departments. Provost Workman stated that the goal is not to eliminate programs that are more cost generating (courses and programs that cost more than they bring in are noted in the analysis by a “red box”) but seek to find ways, by increasing enrollments, to make them cost neutral or positive.

President Bosco inquired about the purpose of the analysis since some faculty may view it as a way to get rid of programs.

Provost Workman replied that we are not doing that. We will have a conversation with the Board about the red boxes and how to use resources more wisely. If we can have more students enroll in these courses, then the red boxes disappear. Some of the boxes might be due to capstone courses, or small enrollment courses needed for a major. Footnotes accompany these red boxes to explain why the box is red.

President Bosco asked if there was a timetable for sharing the analysis with the rest of campus, and that she was aware of incremental pieces of the CCA being revealed at the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee meetings.

Provost Workman spoke of the necessity of a discreet way of sharing the information in the CCA; he does not want to show the campus everything in the analysis, as there are salaries included in it. There may be audiences who need to see the “high-level” release, but this is a sensitive issue. We also need to be aware that programs in the black will want more resources (faculty lines) to grow their programs.

Vice President Moskowitz asked why a better model could not be used so that there are no footnotes to explain red boxes.

Provost Workman indicated that the footnotes will remain, and that he will explain each to the Board.

Vice President Soto noted that the newest hire for the Philosophy program was a non-tenure track lecturer.

Vice President Soto counseled that the optics (of hiring a lecturer rather than a tenure-track professor) might indicate a lack of faith in the Philosophy program.

Provost Workman stated that he saw the addition of a full time line as a positive step toward supporting the philosophy program..

- Availability of NEASC report (was going to be posted to RWU over the summer)

President Farish stated that he would release it.

- Door locks and emergency preparedness procedures posted in every classroom

Provost Workman stated that all classrooms will have the new door locks.

President Farish added that there will be material (instructions) in each classroom about use of the locks, and that there will be a shelter in place drill this fall semester.

According to Provost Workman, changing some door locks in the Law School posed a special problem, since the doors entered outwards. The remaining door locks installation, and new doors (for example in FCAS) will be phased in across campus.

President Bosco asked, as the scheduled meeting time was ending and given the number of remaining agenda items, was there anything that the President and Provost wanted the Executive Committee to bring back to the Faculty Senate.

Provost Workman pointed to the State of the University address, and the need to know what our numbers are and where we want to go. Also noted was the new Graduate Advisory Council, chaired by Professor Varano. There is not a well-developed culture of graduate students on campus, and that graduate students have unique issues (support services from student life, the calendar, etc.) that we need to address. The GAC has been created with Verano as Chair;

Professor Platania working on handbook, representative from Student Life and from graduate students will fill out that committee. We will also like to create a Graduate Student Council. The Graduate Curriculum process needs work, and the University may be at the stage where we might want to consider a separate Commencement for graduate students as we currently have for the Law School. It was also suggested that an academic calendar specific to graduate students will be necessary/helpful, in the same way that SCS has its own academic calendar.

President Farish would like to address how to deal with our rankings in US New & World Reports, with respect to 6-year graduation rates (our rates are higher over 4 years, , but this difference disappears at the 6 year mark for which we should receive more credit). President Farish is also concerned that a slight dip in student retention for one class has a substantial effect on our ranking. He reported that we lost 35 students this year; retention from first to second year is down although it remains high for other class years.

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