

**Roger Williams University
University Life Committee
Meetings September 19, 2018**

Attendance:

X Roberts, Joseph (Senator, SSNS - SS, Chair)

Tsankova, Jenny (SHAE-Ed)

Coon, Julie (SJS)

Yonan, Scott J (Student Life)

Duffy, Elizabeth (SHAE-VPA)

No Representative (SAHP)

X Fagan, Christine (DAS)

No Representative (SHAE-HUM)

X Jeznach, Lillian (SECCM)

No Representative (SSNS -MNS)

X King, John J (Student Life)

X Marsella, Michelle (Bookstore — Guest)

X Matos, Gerald (GSB)

NOTE: X: Present/ O: Online

New Business

Bookstore Ordering Policies

Responding to a query by a faculty member, the ULC looked into the ordering policies of the bookstore. The issue was that a faculty member had students who did not have the required books on the first day of the semester because the bookstore had sold out and would not be able to get more in for an extended period of time. The professor was frustrated that there were insufficient books and that there was a delay.

Michelle Marsella, the RWU Bookstore manager, described that the bookstore tries to obtain all formats of course material because each student learns differently and bases buying decisions on course histories, we do not order to full enrollment. For example, if a course traditionally enrolls 20 students and the bookstore routinely sells 15 books, the bookstore will only order 15 copies. Students have options to purchase their materials elsewhere and many do. Typically, books can be received from the publisher or the

distributor in a few days but the bookstore cannot predict when distributors will have

backorders for books. Faculty who wish to have the bookstore order to the full enrollment

may request that when placing the book order.

University Life thought that ordering more books than will likely be sold and that then

have to be sent back only increases the cost to students. Further, delays happen because of

a myriad of issues that may not be in the bookstore's control. Students could have easily

ordered before classes began (at the bookstore or any of the online sites) and had it well in

advance. Poor planning on their part is not a reflection on the bookstore.

University Life Committee Charge

The University Life Committee unanimously approved the following as the Committee's

charge for the Faculty Senate Bylaws:

The Committee shall work to improve the University community and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate to encourage a more humane, tolerant, and engaged campus academic community. The Committee should also consider the community's impact on the broader world. The Committee shall support and promote events that foster a sense of campus culture both socially and academically, including efforts to foster a greater sense of unity among the university's different Schools or divisions; provide opportunities

for interdisciplinary networking across campus; promote efforts to be of

service to the wider community as well as to one another and to our

students.