

**Roger Williams University  
Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
September 6, 2017  
2:15-4:30, Upper Commons**

Called to Order: 2:16

Roll Call

Present: Bosco, Cutting, Engvall, Hall, Hollingsworth, Knights, MacPhee, McKinley, Melton, Moskowitz, Norvell, O'Connell, Pearce, Roberts, Sawoski, Schroth, Sorger, Soto, Speakman, Stevens, Thangaraj, Topf, Updike, Winfield

Absent: Emmer, Boggs, Kenney

Open Seats: SHAE:HUM, SSNS:MNS, SAHP (3)

Student senators: Cheyenne Quintal and Jackie Applin

A. Announcements

President Bosco welcomes all.

We will be talking about committee assignments with VP Soto, asking the committees to work more closely and align themselves with administrative units, to keep us more informed. Faculty members on Committees outside the Faculty Senate will be asked to align themselves with Standing Committees of the Faculty Senate.

B. President Farish's remarks

We are in for an interesting ride this year. Focus on the positive: what happens when we raise our price, can we recruit a full class of students? Yes, we can. At the October 14, 2017 Board Retreat, we will see an increase in tuition based upon the Cost of Living Index, and that tuition rate will follow that class for their 4 years at RWU. This would generate about 5 million dollars each year and help address the need for "predictable balance" between recruitment and retention.

Very proud of our students in what they are learning, project based/active learning. Affordable excellence to now our new "vision" which will be announced at the State of the University Address next week. We are moving from year to year strategic planning to long range planning. with the goal of a more "collective, collegial decision-making process."

Two of our Vision statements will need more hands on work: Sustainability and Diversity. Many will be tapped by the Sustainability Committee. On Diversity, Ame Lambert is the point person for Diversity as our Chief Diversity Officer.

Questions:

Senator Topf: On the naming of the buildings, can you explain why the Rec Center building is named after Judge Paolino.

President Farish – I can, though I was not here. There was a plaque on the inside of the Field House part of the building, which is the part named after the Judge. A relative of Judge Paolino asked why there was not something more. During the “Make it Right” Campaign, we have restored the recognition to Judge Paolino. We have corrected errors of omitting recognition of people in our past.

Senator Speakman: ROTC students made to feel anxious about “severing ties to the ROTC program,” following your “We Have Your Back” campus-wide email, have you met with students or the advisor to the ROTC program?

President Farish – ROTC does not have a current advisor. I will meet with ROTC students who want to meet, and hope the topic comes up at open mic night tonight. How does our mission aspire to have a discrimination free campus, while having a group with principles that go against that mission? There are three options, none of which is a good. How do we reconcile this inconsistency?

Vice President Moskowitz asked about HB2 in North Carolina, will we no longer allow faculty to go there for conferences, and what about the lack of Saudi female students, Saudi Arabia’s unfriendly LGBT policies?

President Farish – I am not here to pick winners, I am opening a conversation, specifically about the ROTC, further discussions can occur.

Senator Melton – Concerning student preferred name policy – (directed to Provost Workman) – can you provide us with an update?

Provost Workman – we honor the student’s request, often the student’s parents do not know. There is a form available for students, and we will honor student requests.

President Bosco – was the Livingston Estate purchased by the University?

President Farish – yes we acquired it and are awaiting finalization (note address is 55 Ferry Rd.)The property is 17 acres. The Board, has approved its purchase, this will become part of the endowment (we are transferring assets within the endowment, we are not taking money out of the operating budget). The Livingston Estate will become part of the campus discussion about space use and long-term building on campus. A press release is forthcoming. If the Columban Brothers property becomes available, we will look at that property.

Senator Topf: will the Livingston property be taken off the Bristol tax rolls?

President Farish –this is a delicate negotiation that is ongoing with the town.

Senator Updike – and the status of the former Maher Center?

President Farish – Yes, US Sailing (national governing body for the sport of sailing) will occupy and renovate the building as their national headquarters. There will be events on campus due to the interface of campus with them. US Sailing will pay for the building.

C. Provost Workman's remarks

Last time I saw everyone, it was at the Fall Faculty Conference. Thanks to the faculty senators involved in putting together the speaker and program.

We have had a season of dean hiring. We are currently trying to hire a dean for SHAE.

We have a new registrar – Dan O'Driscoll who brings a lot of experience, and is tackling electronic forms and CurricuNET – to fix it or to suggest a replacement. The new registrar would like an opportunity to address the Senate.

The Graduate Council, started last spring, will continue this year and it will meet Friday, September 8. The Provost indicated he will provide the names of the graduate program directors.

The Provost requested that committees meet early and more often with their respective university colleagues.

The Provost thanked Senator Roberts for representing the Senate on Dean's Council. He will need to be replaced due to teaching conflicts when the Council meets. Dean's Council meets on Tuesday from 10-12

D. Adoption of Minutes of May 3, 2017

President Bosco – please abstain during the vote on the minutes if you were not at that meeting.

Motion to Approve the May 3, 2017 Faculty Senate Minutes (Speakman/Topf). Approved 18-0-6

President Bosco –Motion to accept the June 27, 2017 Executive Committee Minutes. (Roberts/Stevens) Passes unanimously.

After discussion with Committee Chairs about implementation of the new Faculty Senate Constitution, President Bosco made an executive decision to proceed with transitional implementation. This will involve only the new position of Recording Secretary, and the change from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President to VP for Academic Affairs and VP for University Matters. We will have Senators Soto and Moskowitz fill in the two Vice President positions: Vice President for Academic Affairs (V.P. Soto), and Vice President for University Matters (V.P. Moskowitz). I will now turn the meeting over to Vice President for Academic Affairs Soto for a discussion of elections that need to be conducted.

Vice President Soto – these are the current Senate vacancies At-Large (2), SAHP (3), SHAE-H, Senators: At-Large, SCS, SHAE HUM, SSNS MNS, SAHP, SAHP, SAHP.

Committees: SHAE HUM—Diversity/SHAE ARTS—AS&P, Steering, Diversity, FD/SHAE EDU—AS&P, Steering, Diversity/SSNS SOC--Diversity/GSB--AS&P/SJS--A&E, AS&KP, Steering, UL/SAHP--A&E, AS&P, Steering, Diversity, UL/SCS--A&E, AS&P, Steering, Diversity, FD, UL

She asked that Senate positions be filled as soon as possible.

#### E. New Business

Vice President for Academic Affairs Soto –first people who lived here, on our campus must/should be properly acknowledged. Vice President Soto read excerpts from letters from Profs. Quezada de Tavares and Prado supporting recognition of these peoples by the University. (Letters are attached)

Motion: Faculty Senate investigate creating a monument/memorial commemorating the history Wampanoag/Pokanokets on this property (campus). (Soto/O'Connell)

Discussion: should we recognize all four first/native peoples that lived on this land, and include those brought here forcefully?

Are we not creating the same problem that Brown University is facing? From whom did our land (campus) come from, and how?

The Federal Government does not recognize the Pokanokets, which is Brown University's defense.

Might this commemoration of first peoples (discussion also included the correct term to use for these groups) require a larger group of faculty experts in this area. Perhaps an ad hoc committee.

We may have to recognize all groups from the past, how many such groups are recognized (first peoples, enslaved Africans, etc.)

(Student Senators) – We hope that students would be included in whichever committee is tasked with this assignment.

President Bosco – the committee will include interested members of the campus, including students.

We should reach out to the Native Tribes to include in this discourse. There is an existing committee examining what to do (to create) indigenous peoples' week (Indigenous Peoples' Week Committee).

Perhaps we can model what we do, what Brown University did with their university's history with slavery. This is a Roger Williams University issue, and the University should take the lead.

(Topf) offers substitute motion: Faculty Senate calls upon President Farish to investigate the earliest inhabitants of the property on which the University stands (Hollingsworth/Speakman) – Passes 19-0-2.

Committee assignments for items brought up by the faculty at the Full Faculty Meeting held on the day of Fall Faculty Conference (August 29, 2017)

- a. Review of status of Independent Studies: Move to Charge the Academic Standards and Policies Committee (Speakman/Soto). Passes unanimously.
- b. Class sizes and faculty resources/classroom allocations: Move to Charge the Academic Standards and Policies Committee (Speakman/Stevens). Passes unanimously.
- c. Strategic planning: Move to Charge the Steering Committee (Speakman/Topf). Passes unanimously.
- d. Class cancellations: Move to Charge the Admissions and Enrollment (Moskowitz/Roberts). Passes unanimously.
- e. Hiring processes for adjuncts: Move to Charge the Executive Committee (Roberts/Speakman). Passes unanimously.
- f. Technical support for labs for night classes and other IT issues (website) Move to Charge the University Life (Roberts/Moskowitz). Passes unanimously.  
  
Charge the University Life Committee to meet with the Academic Computing Department (doesn't seem like a committee exists anymore (Moskowitz/Roberts). Passes unanimously.
- g. Construction/building planning process: Move to charge the University Life Committee to be the liaison for the Faculty Senate when this commences (Stevens/Speakman). Passes 19-1-0.
- h. Sustainability subcommittees: Move to Charge the Elections Committee to populate these subcommittees (Bosco/Speakman). Passes unanimously.
- i. Committee representation (of faculty) across campus – status (Vice President Soto volunteered to assemble the list)
- j. Lab fees administration Move to Charge the Academic Standards and Policies Committee to report on these (Speakman/Moskowitz). Passes unanimously.

- k. Graduate Committee – status Senator Hall is the liaison to the Graduate Council and Senator Thangaraj is a member on that committee. They will update the Senate on their work here.

Point of Information: the Banner in the lobby of the Gabelli building indicates that the new MBA is a 4+1, while on the website it appears to be an open MBA.

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). Passes unanimously. (Update – this was a website error and has been corrected)

- l. Participation in Open Houses/Orientation/Accepted Student Days

Move to Charge the Executive Committee to bring this item to the President/Provost (Topf/Stevens). Passes unanimously. (Update – the number of Open Houses and Accepted Student Days have been reduced already by VP Williams)

- m. Academic Standards Committee at University level

We have some ASPC (Breach of Academic Integrity) School Committees on which Deans sit, who might also be on the University Level .

Move to Charge Academic Standards and Policies Committee to examine academic standards issues at the university (Speakman/Stevens). Passes 19-0-1.

Motion to Adjourn (O’Connell/Thangaraj). Passes unanimously.

Adjourned 3:55 p.m.