

Roger Williams University
Faculty Senate
Minutes
April 4, 2018

A. Roll Call

Present: Bosco, Cutting, D'Amore, Duffy, Emmer, Hall, Hollingsworth, Kenney, MacPhee, McKinley, Melton, Moskowitz, Pearce, Rebelo, Sawoski, Schroth, Sorger, Soto, Speakman, Stevens, Thangaraj, Topf, Updike, Winfield

Absent: Engvall, Knights, Quezada-Grant, Roberts

Open Seats: SHAE:HUM, SSNS:MNS, SAAHP (2)

Guests: D. Farish, A. Workman, Jeremy Campbell, W. Palm, J. Scurry, B. Spritz, Student Senator: Jackie Applin

- B. Announcements – Elections reminder - Elections should be happening. The Elections Committee will assist with this. The goal is once the elections are set we can do election of committee chairs, ideally, with committee chairs elected through the Elections Committee, and have time during the organizational meeting to transition from chair to chair.

VP Soto –Committee chairs should forward to me the work of the committee over this last year, motions, and their status to inform Senators for next year.

- C. President Farish's remarks – This time of year we are concerned about enrollment for next year. Enrollments are down a bit, but many more early applications. A very successful first ASD, with deposits. While applications for GSB are a bit down, the show rate at ASDs is up. We are ahead from a year ago in terms of deposits. There are conflicting predictions for next year for area schools as reported in a Boston Globe article (sent to the Senators). We must continue our efforts through the next two ASDs (April 8 and April 15). Good response from those attending ASDs, and now we need to see the show rate (those who attend then pay deposits).

Senator Sawoski – What is the last day for deposits?

President Farish – May 1, but we can accept afterwards, but their official admission offer expires on the first of May.

D. Provost Workman's remarks

We are in the middle of 12 searches and the quality of applicants has been very good. Thank you to the search committees, and we will be getting the first offer letters out shortly.

Retention will tell us more for next year, as fall registration ends. We will be keeping an eye on housing deposits, and those who have asked for transcripts, to get a better idea on retention.

Dan O'Driscoll has been working hard on the transition of the catalog to its new online platform. There are some consistency problems and we will be reaching out to Adria's committee (Academic Standards & Policies)

The ASEM reports have been reviewed and we will be following up with the departments. Interesting ideas emanating from SHAE.

Status of CIS program – Brett McKenzie will be moving to SHAE, the Arts Management program will be re-envisioned and renamed as Arts Administration. CIS services GSB, but is not a major. Senator Schroth noted that the CIS major was re-named Web Development.

Provost Workman addressed the evaluation instrument for the Deans and Provost. The new instrument has been sent to Assistant Vice President Thomas McDonough.

Senator Topf – How is the bicycle path coming along? The Provost replied that it is progressing.

Vice President Soto – Can you tell us where there are impactful budget cuts across campus, for example, the FIT program was always open to both work-study students and non-work study students, but we understand that has changed due to budget constraints and is only available to work-study students. Are there other areas that are being impacted by the budget constraints, particularly in terms of next year's budget?

Provost Workman – there may be some, but we have to look at the 2019 AY budgets. There are some schools with over capacity that are offering 70% discount rates. But we will not see their students until those institutions close, this is going to be a very rough 10 years coming up.

VP Soto –Is there a way for faculty to be alerted regarding such cuts, and the impacts before we are surprised – not buying cookies for student events is one thing, not hiring staff at the Career Center is another. And what is the status of the Engineering Building?

President Farish – we have been working with a deficit this year, from the smaller sophomore class (lack of initial enrollment, and greater attrition), and we will have a larger freshman class with a bit higher discount rate.

This year's freshman class has had a lower discount rate, thanks to Brian Williams' work, but the larger freshman class this year, will move through the system, with successive classes having higher tuitions. We are working on the AY2019 budget, to be finalized with the Trustees, and should know more when fall enrollments are finalized. We are trying to maximize student experience, running thin in other areas.

Senator Cutting – Any information on the losses in retention?

President Farish – a number of reasons. The ones that left in the highest proportion numbers were those with modest support, but not students who were not FAFSA eligible (the wealthier students, about 25% of them). Those who stayed are those who made a connection with the university, through sports or other activities.

President Bosco asked about the status of the Engineering Building.

President Farish - Working on the debt package in July, and building in the fall

Senator Speakman asked about the financing for the Engineering Building

President Farish: \$5 million is from fund raising, and \$8 million will be in debt obligations.

E. Discussion of Academic Standards and Policies Information re: School of Continuing Studies

Senator Topf – I have examined the documents provided by the committee. SCS is doing some wonderful things, and has a sense of mission and purpose. But it appears to be operating as a free-standing institution from the Bristol campus. I think it needs to have its own governance structure. I am willing to propose a motion, that the Faculty Senate does not have the ability to provide oversight or governance for SCS.

Provost Workman – Is there a question you would like us to respond to?

Senator Speakman – I am impressed, as is Senator Topf, with what was presented. I would like to see how effective the programs are in SCS, that data was not included at the meeting. I would appreciate more information on the demands on program coordinators in SCS, and how these demands are greater than on coordinators on the Bristol Campus. I question whether, rather than separate our governance, we should be more integrated between Providence and Bristol. Many of the questions that Renee and I sent about SCS have not been answered in this report.

Provost Workman – It is a blend of approaches – those programs that are Bristol based will have more Faculty Senate input, those that are specific to SCS may not need to be under Faculty Senate shared governance. I agree with June, that integration for some of the programs is good. But for adult and high school populations, SCS needs to be more dynamic.

There was discussion of allocation of revenues and costs between SCS and the Bristol campus. President Farish asserted that SCS revenues supported the Bristol campus for several years. VP Moskowitz noted that when building costs are factored in there is a negative impact on those revenues.

Senator Updike – Please read the committee’s full report. There are many details in the report that are worth reading. One of the questions is whether courses taken in Providence can be transferred back to the Bristol Campus. Perhaps we can have a standardized system for noting which courses taken in Providence will count here.

Dean Scurry –If a student in Bristol wishes to take a course in Providence, there needs to be room in the course, and then we work with the student make sure the courses can be counted in Bristol.

There was a broad discussion of curricular issues as they pertain to SCS. SCS has a need to do curricular review on a faster route, which may need to differ from the Bristol curricular process. There were concerns expressed about maintenance of the quality of curriculum review.

President Bosco asked what would be the NEASC implications if a separation in governance were to take place.

Provost Workman – We would keep NEASC informed every step of the way.

F. Adoption of Minutes of March 7, 2018

Motion to approve (Melton, MacPhee) - Passed unanimously.

G. Acceptance of Committee Reports

Motion to accept Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Minutes of March 28, 2018 (Moskowitz, Cutting) - Passed 23 - 0 - 1

Motion to accept Executive Committee Meeting Notes of March 20, 2018 (Speakman, Stevens) - Passed unanimously.

Senator Topf – No report from Admissions and Enrollment. We are awaiting full data from VP Williams about undeclared/undecided and advising. There was a brief discussion about the status of undecided students, which varies by school.

H. Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Motions:

President Bosco – Should we take FSCC Motions as a block or separately?

Approve Faculty Senate Curriculum Motions except for Community Development and Graphic Design (Speakman, Moskowitz) - Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Graphic Design proposals (Speakman, Soto). Passed unanimously.

Question about proposer since there is no continuing full time faculty member in Graphic Design. (List of proposers for the Graphic Design Curriculum items read aloud.)

Move to Approve Community Development proposals (Speakman, Duffy). Passed 19-0-1.

Discussion regarding program concerns. Senator Speakman stated that she, Professor Edgar Adams, and Senator Rebelo met to discuss these proposals. Concerns were raised that for a graduate program there are too few courses, and that some of these courses overlap existing courses. There is also an implementation failure in delivering the program to graduate students in SAAHP who wish to complete the program. Senator Pearce said that the FSCC reviewed the concerns, but found they did not appear to reflect current standards.

Senator Speakman asked whether Professor Adams concerns could be included in the records of the committee. Duly Noted.

Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Motions:

1. Biology Proposals

Major Change B.S. in Biology

Major Change B.A. in Biology

Minor Change

BIO 250 intro Biostatistics

2. Graphic Design Proposal

New Course DSGN429 Citizen Designer

3. Securities Proposal

Minor Change

SEC 650 Cybersecurity capstone

4. Physics Proposal

Minor Change

PHYS 202 Physics II w/ Calculus and Lab

5. Engineering Proposals

Minor Change

ENGR 310 Material Science

ENGR 320 Environmental Engineering

6. Construction Management Proposal

Minor Change

B.S. in Construction Management

7. History Proposals

Minor Changes

HIST 420 Senior Research Project
HIST 399 Methods and Historiography and Lab
HIST 320 Ancient History
HIST 284 Survey of the Middle East
HIST 384 Perspectives in Near and Middle East History

8. Natural Science Proposals

Minor Changes

B.A. in Environmental Science
B.S. in Environmental Science
Minor in Environmental Science

9. EMS Proposals

Minor Changes

EMS 313 Paramedic Practicum 1
EMS 314 Paramedic Practicum 2

10. Honors Program Proposals (see attached documents)

Proposals for changes to the Honor's Program Curriculum:

Addition of HONR prefix for courses particular to the Honor's Program

Changes to Honor's Program Catalog Copy

Addition of 12 new courses (or specialized sections of courses)

HONR 100 Foundation of Honors
HONR 101 Honors Scientific Investigations
HONR 102 Honors Challenges of Democracy
HONR 103 Honors Human Behavior in Perspective
HONR 104 Honors Literature, Philosophy and the Examined Life
HONR 105 Honors Aesthetics in Context: The Artistic Impulse
HONR 220 Place as Text
HONR 300 Community Engagement Seminar
HONR 350 Honors CPC Project
HONR 375 Independent Community Engagement Project
HONR 400 Honors Capstone Seminar
HONR 430 Special Topics Seminar

11. Community Development Proposals

New Course CD 557 Thesis Research Proposal Development

New Course CD 558 Graduate Thesis Capstone

New Program Community Development, MA

I. GECPC Monthly Update – Associate Dean Jason Jacobs not able to attend.

J. Old Business

- a. Actions for referral to Academic Standards and Policies Committee (Bosco, Speakman) - Passed unanimously.
 - i. Class time used for assessment/accreditation activities
 - ii. Wait listing process and priority for needs of graduating students

(The waitlist does not discriminate between class years, so students needing to graduate may not be able to get to the top of the wait list)

- iii. Reporting on Academic Standards Committees/Processes for each school - focus on whether these should be standardized
- b. Action for referral to Admissions and Enrollment Committee (Moskowitz, Speakman) - Passed unanimously.
 - i. A report on Transfer Admissions, specifically with regard to advisement and credit evaluation such that no transfer student is promised something that cannot be academically done (ex: graduating with a Legal Studies major in the two years left in a transfer student's undergraduate career when the student would need more than two years to complete all of the requirements).
 - ii. A report on the continuing problem with transfer students (wrong number of credits counted toward waiver of core 1xx classes which affects students' ability to register for Core Senior Seminar, delays their graduation dates or forces the students to catch up, etc).

Senator Winfield – We also have transfer students coming in who do not count courses beyond a certain number of credits, where those additional credits could be used to fulfill program requirements.

K. New Business

- a. Motion - see below (Topf, Speakman) - Tabled (Emmer, Pearce) - Passed 10-9-1

MOTION: Whereas the Faculty Senate has responsibility for governance of academic programs including course and other requirements for degree, diploma and certificate programs offered by the University; and

Whereas the Senate has long experienced great difficulty in exercise of governance over programs in the School of Continuing Studies; and

Whereas President Farish has effectively confirmed to the Senate Executive Committee that SCS courses and programs cannot feasibly be subject to Senate governance in that he has acknowledged that SCS is “different” since it must “move quickly” on decisions regarding programs and participants, and that SCS programs do not fit the traditional model, for example non-credit-bearing courses and other programs offered ad hoc as requested by agencies and other organizations. [Executive Committee minutes, 11/14/17.].

Therefore, the Senate hereby acknowledges that it cannot reasonably bear responsibility for effective governance of the SCS, and hereby resolves that it is no longer responsible for overseeing the standards, policies, or curricula offered by the SCS.

Further, the Senate shall so inform the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, in that the most recent self-study submitted to NEASC in 2017 indicated no such limit on Senate Governance.

Discussion on the Motion

Senator Pearce – This is an internal problem that has not been resolved. So we are sending a letter, which indicates what we are going to do. Senator Updike and I are proposing changes to the curricular process that might satisfy the Administration's requirements and the Faculty Governance requirement.

Senator MacPhee – I support separating the curriculum catalog and registration process.

Senator Emmer – I think it is premature, but the motion has validity – since we were just presented with this one hour ago – something this big needs more time to think about.

Motion to table (Emmer, Pearce) - Passed 10-9-1

When would we get discuss this? Next meeting?

President Bosco – Yes, a motion can be made to untable the motion at our May meeting.

b. Move that the Senate recommends that faculty include the following policy in their syllabi:
"Roger Williams University has an optional Preferred Name Policy that allows you to update your name in our University records without requiring a legal name change. Students who might consider using such a change include members of our trans communities. You can update your name through your Student portal, then click on Student, then User Account. Preferred Personal Information should appear and you can update your name there. Should students have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Register's Office or Gabby Porcaro in the Intercultural Center." (Topf, Moskowitz) - Passed unanimously.

c. Move that a meeting take place of the following individuals to resolve Arts Management curricular questions:

- iii. Provost Andy Workman
- iv. Dean Susan McTiernan
- v. Assistant Dean Jeffrey Meriwether
- vi. A member of the Executive Committee
- vii. A member of the Academic Standards and Policies Committee
- viii. A member of the Curriculum Committee (Bosco, Speakman) - Passed unanimously

President Bosco provided background, problems with students registering for courses, and other details of the program transition from GSB to SHAE.

d. The Faculty Senate urges RWU to ensure that none of its endowment funds are investing in weapons manufacturers whose assault weapons are sold to the public (Speakman, Sawoski). Defeated 8-9-3.

Discussion

Senator Speakman – Tufts University has done this. On behalf of another faculty member, I make this motion at the faculty member's request.

Senator Emmer – some of these manufacturers make component parts for these weapons, so we may not know the full extent of which companies are involved.

Senator Sawoski – this is limited to assault weapons from manufacturers sold to the public.

Vice President Soto – reads the Tufts University motion.

Senator Pearce – this is a statement motion, and as Senator Emmer points out, these are also manufacturers to the military.

Senator Sawoski – we are not talking about companies making weapons for the military, but those sold to the public.

Senator Topf – I don't think we should be making statements about the military.

Senator Duffy – perhaps we should bring this up with the Student Senate.

Senator Pearce – this is a political statement, virtue signaling. I would rather talk about doing something rather than passing a motion.

- e. Discussion of Possible Changes to Curriculum Committee Review Process (Jennifer Stevens, Chair of FSCC)

Discussion included concerns expressed about the length of time necessary to review every curricular change whether for new programs, courses, or grammar. Sense that School Curriculum Committees should be trusted to do their work. Ways that the process could be streamlined. There is a process in place currently that the FSCC must follow.

Senator Emmer volunteered to chair a task force to review the current process and propose a new procedure for addressing minor (aka technical) curricular changes. This task force will make its recommendations at the September Faculty Senate meeting. Senator Emmer asked for two volunteers to work with him

- f. Motion that beginning 2018-19, members of the General Education Curriculum and Planning Committee shall be elected to three-year staggered terms. To implement this, at the next election, one-third of members shall initially be elected for one year (and thereafter for three-year terms), one-third shall initially be elected for two years (and thereafter for three-year terms); and one-third shall be elected for three years. (Mel Topf, for GECPC, Cutting) - Passed unanimously.

Initial terms shall be as follows:

One Year: At-large

GSB

Library

Mathematics

Two Years: SAHP

SECCM

SHAE --HPA

SHAE – SED

Three years: SHAE – VPA

SJS

SNS – SCI

SNS – SS

WTNG

Meeting Adjourned at 4:32 p.m.