

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

**A. Roll Call**

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

Absent: Hall, Shelton, Winfield

Open Seats: SHAE:HUM, SSNS:MNS, SAHP (2), SEECM

Student senators: Cheyenne Quintal, Jackie Applin and Jake Brostuen.

Guests: D Farish, D O'Driscoll, A Workman, P. Bender, R.Cole, J.Dunseath

**B. President Farish's Remarks** - President Farish said that applications are up 32% which is positive news, but we also need a good yield, and there is no guarantee of what we will see in May. A shift in messaging regarding acceptances will hopefully help to move yield from 16% to 20%. We have obtained a permit to build a new residence hall which will be near Baypoint. The new hall is anticipated to open in August, 2018 and will reduce the need for triples. There is a deadline of March 2 to decide on the Indigenous Peoples' Day to present to the Board of Trustees. President Farish spoke with local people, including neighbors and indigenous persons asking what's high on their priority list other than a symbolic calendar change. The President is concerned about the proposed national tax bill noting its possible damaging effects on both graduate tuition waivers as taxable income and future donations to non-profits. President Farish indicated the RWU has issued as cease and desist order to UMass Dartmouth regarding the phrase "Affordable Excellence".

Senator Speakman commented on the lack of faculty representation on the new Building and Grounds Committee of the Board of Trustees and they voted to keep the site for the new Engineering building as proposed despite faculty and student objections. President Farish confirmed that the sole non-trustee on the committee was also a non-faculty member, Dean Steve White. Senator Speakman spoke of the process as an indicator of the University's low-level of commitment to shared governance. Vice President Moskowitz noted that the rendering request for the design was not publicized - the opportunity for faculty to comment should have been earlier rather than later in the planning process. President Farish said that the economics of the building financing are still not in place and a gap remains in donations. The University has exhausted its borrowing capacity between the Engineering building and the new dorm. We need to compete with, rather than be at the peril of programs located nearby that have modern facilities. There is no set plan to bring the current Engineering building up to code. He added that there is no master campus plan at this time, but that he would like to see all the academic buildings on the quad rather than having the administration building there, for example.

C. Provost Workman's Remarks - Senator Topf asked whether the administration is paying attention to governance issues regarding SCS. Provost Workman said that he has visited 7 departments regarding the ASEM planning project and that there have been many subsequent data requests. The SHAE Dean's search is going well and expected to be complete by January 1, 2018. For spring, 2018, Associate Dean Jeffrey Meriwether will be interim Dean. A new person will be in charge of graduations taking over from Allison Chase-Padula. There will be changes to the graduate school ceremony as students indicated they were dissatisfied with the current program. There will be enhancements to Library space to increase areas for students to work, based on a report from an outside advisor who indicated we have 1/3 of the seating in the library that we need.

Senator Sawoski asked about the early due date of December 26 for final grades for the fall semester. The Provost will check, but not optimistic due to the need to notify students of probation status in time for them to appeal.

Registrar Dan O'Driscoll spoke briefly about catalog/Curricunet problems. He gave an overview of the new proposed vendor Digarc with the advantages it has over Curricunet. The goal is to replace Curricunet by the end of the spring 2018 semester. There were some questions from the floor regarding cost and customization options. Digarc is a costly system encompassing catalog and curriculum components. A Webinar will be scheduled in the coming weeks to have faculty involved with this system get a demonstration and comment.

D. Adoption of Minutes of November 1, 2017 (Speakman, Roberts) – Passed unanimously

E. Acceptance of Committee reports – Admissions and Enrollment Committee, Diversity Committee, Executive Committee, University Life Committee (Roberts, Topf) – Passed unanimously.

President Bosco repeated the need to fill vacancies in committees.

Chair of the Admissions and Enrollment Committee Topf is getting information on undeclared students.

Chair of the Academic Standards and Policies Committee Speakman commented on the lab fee report they are preparing and also asked Senators to submit questions to her committee regarding areas they would like to know more about regarding the School of Continuing Studies. Senators provided a variety of questions they have particularly in areas of curriculum and instructor staffing. Questions included accreditation, specialized faculty, the plan for SCS, its relationship to/distinction from the Bristol campus. Student Senator Quintal indicated students have questions regarding access to SCS faculty, the availability of courses to Bristol-based students, and student parking and transportation issues. The committee will bring these questions to a meeting with the Provost and Dean Jamie Scurry and report back to the Senate at its February 7 meeting.

## F. Old Business

Motion to reorder agenda and move the motions from Academic Standards and Policies Committee after GECPC report (Speakman, Moskowitz) - Passed unanimously

## G. New Business

### a) Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee motions:

Motion to approve the following curriculum proposals that were approved by the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee on November 15, 2017

#### 1. GECPC Proposals

Motion: To approve the recommendations to remove the core concentration restrictions for Computer Science/Marine Biology, Biology, and Environmental Science and Political Science/History and American Studies. (Stevens, Speakman) - Passed unanimously

#### 2. Public Health Proposals (documents previously sent)

Motion: To approve the following: (Stevens, Speakman) – Passed unanimously  
Minor Changes

B.S in Public Health to change requirement for infectious diseases courses

B.A. in Public Health to add POLSC 240 to list of courses that fulfill the statistical analysis requirement

B.S./B.A. in Public Health to add a minimum GPA requirement for students majoring in Public Health

Passed 6-0-0 with a strong recommendation to specify a numeric GPA in place of/in addition to a letter grade specification

Minor in Public Health to add POLSC 240 to list of courses that fulfill the statistical analysis requirement

#### 3. COMM Proposals

Motion: To approve the following: (Stevens, Speakman) – Passed unanimously  
Minor Changes

B.A. in Communication & Media Studies, changes to requirements  
Global Communication, CORE Concentration, Add course options

#### 4. Community Development Proposals

Motion: To approve the following: - withdrawn

New Course CD 557 Thesis Research Proposal Development

New Course CD 558 Graduate Thesis Capstone

New Program Community Development, MA

Discussion of faculty available to be consulted and teaching qualifications for instructors in this program.

Motion: To return these proposals to the Curriculum Committee for more information regarding faculty credentialed to teach and faculty consulted regarding the program – (Speakman, Moskowitz) - Passed 17-1-5

5. Computer Science Proposals

Motion: To approve the following: (Cutting, Roberts) – Passed unanimously  
Minor Changes  
COMSC410 Artificial Intelligence, change to catalog copy

- b) The Faculty Senate charges the University Life Committee with inquiring into the new Outlook security measures (login and synch with Calendar and Contacts in particular).(Speakman, Moskowitz) Passed 22-1-0.
- c) Summary of GECPC work – GECPC Chair Bender  
Professor Bender updated the Senate on its work since last spring (get presentation?)
- d) Motion: That the university take substantive steps to ensure safe routes for walking and bicycling between campus and Bristol Center (MacPhee, Topf ) – Passed 20-0-1

Background: Currently, the only safe way for students, faculty, and staff to travel to and from campus is by motor vehicle. As the university moves toward promoting sustainability as a core principle, we face the challenge of encouraging students, staff, and faculty to use sustainable modes of transportation to a campus located on two busy streets. The roads surrounding campus lack sidewalks and bike lanes, and there is only one crosswalk on the south end of campus. Working with the Town of Bristol to create pedestrian and bicycle friendly routes between the university and town services and amenities will not only reduce the university's carbon footprint, but also will facilitate our core principle of community engagement.

Supporting statements were provided by Senator Topf and submitted by Assoc. Dean Meriwether

Motion: That the President report back to the Executive Committee by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 regarding the bike path status (Topf, Soto) – Passed unanimously (Note: see Executive Committee Minutes for December, 2017)

- e) Report from Deans' Council – Senators June Speakman and Joseph Robert. Motion to accept (O'Connell, Updike) – Passed 17-3-0
- f) Motions from the Academic Standards and Policies Committee: Motion to continue this topic to the February meeting (Roberts, Speakman) – Passed unanimously.
  - i. The Faculty Senate recommends that the Independent Study designation no longer be used for senior or graduate theses. Those departments that offer theses, but do not have a course number assigned to those projects, should add the Thesis course to their program offerings in the catalog.
  - ii. The Faculty Senate recommends that the deadline for submission of Independent Study proposals to the relevant Dean be designated as “within seven days of the first day of classes,” and that the Dean act on these proposals within seven days of their submission.
  - iii. The Faculty Senate affirms the faculty's belief that independent studies are an important element of an RWU education. Consequently, the Faculty Senate recommends the

appropriation of adequate funds to support this high impact practice of one-on-one student faculty collaboration.

- iv. The Faculty Senate recommends that the designation “independent study” not be used for low-enrolled classes. The latter, if essential for the students’ progress towards graduation, should be listed as courses on the students’ transcript.

- g) Motion: Request that the Executive Committee obtain information on the shelter in place drill – specifically why there was no notice in the Upper Commons Dining Room (Soto, Bosco) – Passed unanimously

Background: During the drill on Monday, November 27, in this location there were many students and others, yet no public notice of the need to shelter in place was seen/heard.

Meeting adjourned 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Executive Committee