

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2019

Present: D'Amore, Engvall, Fenske, Gumb, Knights, McCormack, McKinley, Rebelo, Roberts, Soto, Stevens, Tehrani, Thangaraj, Topf, Updike, MacPhee, Cutting, Bosco

Absent: Emmer, Pearce, Sawoski,

Guests: A. Workman, R. Cole, S. Avila, K. Rosengren, D. O'Driscoll, A. Lambert, Prof. Chris Menton

Announcements:

Senate elections are wrapping up

4 faculty listening sessions with the incoming President have been set up –

May 2 at 9am – All Faculty

May 2 at 2pm – Faculty Senate

May 2 at 4pm – Junior Faculty

May 30 at 10am- Adjunct faculty

US Bank is new bank – in process

Update from President Workman:

Transition committee is meeting every week; 7-10 days per month from new President (for free) he officially starts at RWU on 8/19;

Listening sessions are designed to learn as much as possible

There are plans to roll-out in coming year – retreats with senior staff; work with faculty and communicating what he learned

E-Comm Mtg transition meeting with new President will take place on August 21

If you have ideas about how to help in the transition, send them to Mary Jo Michaud in the President's Office – happy to take into account moving forward

Accepted Students Days:

Going fabulously – best by far; good numbers; more than 400 attendees each session (last year only one session had more than 400 attendees)

We are within 20 RSVPs of highest number of ASD attendees ever

People are “on message”

He is hearing less from parents about not being able to afford tuition – financial aid model seems to have put us in a good place

We have 400 deposits as of today – 13% higher than last year – still need 800

Final ASD – “May be our 4th, but it’s the first for those who are there”

Thanks for the work you’ve all done.

Senator Topf: Update on the name change approval process for employees?

Workman: Joe Sassi will come to next E-Comm meeting – there are intersections that are causing challenges –

Senator MacPhee: IR data that was e-mailed - surprised by low number of students at University College

Workman: those are just degree seeking students, to be parallel to Bristol – there are more, if you take into consideration non-degree students. Currently, we are focusing on degree seeking students who are more steady. Contract growth, for example, is not steady;

Update from Provost Cole:

Accepted Students Days:

Grateful to faculty who have done them

Commencement:

Working with University Life – he and John King are talking suggestions to Cabinet and Melanie Stone; trying to be responsive – thinking about using professional name callers, people who are adept at pronunciation and enunciation for hearing and airing of names (which has been a criticism of past ceremonies)

If you have suggestions, send them to Cole

RE: Old Engineering Bldg

Will be working with Jerry Williams and Bill Seymour to call for proposals about what programs might go in to Engineering building – For some groups, this will be a way to get a fair hearing.

Will form a review committee over summer – including faculty.

Curriculum from University College:

Curriculog has no process in place yet for University College; there will be a 3-week hold/reading period for proposals to be viewed in Curriculog;

If there are proposals that crossover into Bristol programs, they will be discussed by the XCCC. Faculty can exercise the prerogative to ask that the XCCC is convened to review curriculum proposals

Senator Bosco: Wanted to notify people that, if anyone has a concern about curricular items for XCCC, there isn't a capability to comment in Curriculog.

O' Driscoll confirmed that only involved people can comment

Senator Stevens: There are many proposals that are similar to SJS curricula. Faculty in SJS might want to look at the courses.

Cole: Courses will be in a holding pattern for 3 weeks. You can invoke XCCC if you wish.

Senator Stevens: There will be a new form for University College Curriculum

Senator Soto: Question about old Engineering bldg. – Are you taking into consideration the Master Planning listening sessions, and applying them to the proposals people make?

Cole: Yes.

Senator Soto: Noted that she does not receive updates from Curriculog - Registrar is looking at it.

Senator Topf: What is the plan for the May – August Provost role?

Workman: That is currently under discussion.

Update from Registrar Dan O'Driscoll:

There is a new graduation form that can be filled out online, registrar will input into system

RogerCentral has a service/module for the graduation application that will be “turned on” for students who have 70 credits or more for undergrad; 15 credits or more for grad. This is coming soon – for juniors who need to apply.

Senator Tehrani: Who approves the graduation application?

O’Driscoll: No approval process. This gets students on the radar of Registrar, so we can communicate with them.

Senator Tehrani expressed concern about faculty advisor role, and their responsibility to ensure that student advisement is complete. There should be an option for faculty advisor comments, because we need records of the conversations that we have with students about their graduation status and progress.

O’Driscoll: You can use notes section in RogerCentral.

Other concerns were raised about the confusion about the transition to the new system for current juniors, and about the value that faculty advisors have to an RWU education.

O’Driscoll noted that faculty will still see students during advising.

President Bosco reminded folks that advisers will still get an e-mail of degree audits with missing items

Update from VP of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ame Lambert:

Campus has been working for a year and a quarter on the subject of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. January 2018 Summit coalesced around 5 thematic areas, which became the 5 task forces of the DE&I strategic plan.

Lambert asked Faculty Senate to break into 5 interest groups to review one section of the strategic plan draft, with a series of questions for each group to answer.

Comments about Student Access and Success:

Like that the plan does not seem hard to implement

Like that it requires institutional commitment and money

Comments about Employee Access and Success:

Like that the plan promises to be foster a more diverse campus

Like that leadership development is a constant

Comments about Campus Climate:

Like the idea of developing shared common language

Like the appreciative language approaches –

Would like Faculty Senate to approve and affirm, act as role models

Comments about Education, Scholarship, and Service:

Like that active learning is a way to bring diversity together

Like the support for affinity-based learning

Like the faculty workshops

Comments about Infrastructure:

Like the statement of inclusivity

Want to ensure that the articulation of this plan is not a merely a rhetorical commitment

Motion to accept committee reports (Bosco/Rebelo)

Approved 18-0-0

Motion to accept Executive Committee Minutes (McCormack/Tehrani)

Approved 18-0-0

Old Business

Motion: In accordance with the policy as stated in the RWU catalog, all freshmen and sophomore international students shall be housed on campus. (Tehrani, Cutting)

Senator Tehrani reminded Faculty Senate of a 2014 discussion on this matter, and explained the circumstances of a Muslim student who is living in Providence in an apartment complex (leased to her by a Boston broker) without adequate support.

Discussion ensued about reasons that this might be happening (places of worship, cultural community), and what processes may not have been appropriately followed. Senators looked at the policy as written in the catalog, which allows exceptions to the on-campus residency policy by approval of the Asst VP of Students, for married students, and for students living at home.

Senator D'Amore raised concern that this was being brought to the Faculty Senate for resolution, rather than to the staff offices (Intercultural Center, International Students Office) that could be helpful to the student in question.

Senator Tehrani expressed concern that RWU is known for not being a welcoming place for Muslim students.

Senator Roberts proposed a friendly amendment that adds “fully adhere to the policy as it is written in the catalog”

Accepted by Tehrani/Cutting

Motion to approve as amended:

Approved: 18-0-0

Motion: That the Academic Standards Committee (and/or the Curriculum Committee) examine the appropriateness of the now required 10-week internship course (called the Career Planning Seminar) organized by the Center for Career and Professional Development. The course, taught by a staff member, requires 10 weeks of instruction (in either 50-minute or 80-minute sessions — Senators - see syllabus attached). (Roberts, Tehrani)

Senator Roberts explained that this policy precludes students from taking an internship that comes along quickly; gave an example from a Poli Sci Sophomore

Internship courses should be more accessible so that students can take advantage of internships as they come

Also asks whether this course is curricular?

Senator Stevens: Not credit bearing. That's the loophole. Can be taught by non-faculty. But it shows up on transcript – it should bear credit. 10 weeks is more than half a semester. It should be in the catalog – then it would need approval.

Senator McCormack: These guidelines may be discouraging community involvement. What was wrong with the old course? Was there an assessment of what was bad about it?

Senator MacPhee: It is not new – at least 5 years; used to be 5 weeks 2 x and now is 1x for 10 weeks; the course is fantastic – all students should take it so they are ready for internships. It's practical. All staff at the Career Center teach it, but it would be inconvenient for them to have to go through hoops to teach it; she tells all advisees to take it. This was originally a faculty-driven course. Cautions against pushing too hard against this course.

Motion to refer to Academic Standards and Policies for further investigation. Knights/Tehrani

Approved 17-1-0

New Business

Motion to approve FSCC Motions as a block (Tehrani/Updike)

FSCC Motions for Faculty Senate 4/3/19

CNST - 461 - Residential Construction & Development NEW COURSE

CNST - 462 - Advanced Information Technology in Construction NEW COURSE

CNST - 535 - Facilities Management NEW COURSE

CNST - 596 - Research Project II NEW COURSE

DSGN - 350 - Designing the User Experience NEW COURSE

ENGR - 419 - Highway Bridge Design NEW COURSE

NEW Prefix - 350 - Designing the User Experience NEW COURSE

Approved: 18-0-0

Meeting adjourned with loss of quorum.