

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
October 5, 2016
2:15 pm
Mary Tefft White Room, University Library

1. Attendance

Present: Boggs, Emmer, Gumb, Hall, Hollingsworth, Langdon, McKinley, Melton, Menton, Moskowitz, Norvell, O'Connell, Pearce, Platina, Reynolds, Roberts, Scully, Soto, Speakman, Tehrani, Thangaraj, Topf, Swanson, Updike, Winfield

Absent: Sawoski, Schroth

Guests: President Farish, Provost Workman, Professors Kenney and Schlinke, Associate Dean Jacobs, Student Senator Alba

2. President Farish's report:

- a. Edward Fitzpatrick, previously of the *Providence Journal* is the new Director of Media and Public Relations.
- b. The NEASC visit is complete. The preliminary report was positive, and much better than the exit report ten years ago. Thanks to Associate Provost Bob Cole for shepherding the self-study to completion. An initial report will be sent to Pres. Farish in several weeks for comment, followed by a final report within six months.

3. Provost Workman's report:

- a. 83.4% retention rate was realized, this is our highest rate. Methods are under development for informing students early of their at risk status. Faculty will not have additional responsibilities, but students in academic trouble will be more closely tracked.
- b. Thomas J. McDonough, formerly of *the Providence Journal*, is RWU's new VP for Human Resources. His meeting with the deans revealed areas in need of attention in that department.
- c. Question from Senator: is it the case that the university is paying \$23 million over ten years for the building in Providence. Answer: no, it's \$12 million.

4. Dean's Council liaison report: Professor Platania –reports from two meetings were summarized.

- a. Issues surrounding the Scholastic Aptitude Test were discussed. A slide presentation was offered that presents information regarding changes the SAT. The new version resembles the ACT. Writing is now optional.

2016-13 Motion (Moskowitz, Roberts) The Faculty Senate charge The Admissions and Enrollment committee to look at the changes in the SAT and report back to the Senate.

22-0-1

5. Executive Committee Report

- a. Meeting of 9/30/16 was summarized.
- b. Meeting with NEASC team was summarized. In attendance at that meeting were Sens. Speakman, Menton, Soto and Updike and former Senators Micken and Ghanem. Issues of transparency and communication with the administration were raised.
- c. Speakman noted that she failed to place approval of the September minutes on the agenda for approval. They will be placed on the November agenda. Speakman assures Senators that the minutes will be released and posted on the website in a timely fashion.
- d. VP Soto outlined the process for filling committee vacancies and urged all Senate committees to begin meeting
- e. **Motion 2016-14 (Topf, O’Connell) Standing Committees of the Faculty Senate may meet and vote with a quorum of five members or more.** (Passed without objection)

The purpose of the motion is to allow committees to begin work despite the current difficulties with Senate vacancies.

6. Committee Reports

- a. **FS Curriculum Committee**—actions taken at 9/28 meeting. Chair Platania offered the following motions: will offer motions as appropriate.

	<u>Type of Petition</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Petition Title and Link for Review</u>	<u>Date Submitted</u>	Senate decision
2016-15 Motion to approve (Platania, Updike)	Minor School Course Modification	CAS	POLSC	340 International Political Economy	3/2/2016	<i>Passed without objection</i>

2016 – 16 Motion to approve (Platania, Moskowitz)	Minor School Program Modification	VARTS		BA Visual Art Studies	4/13/2016	<i>Passed without objection</i>
2016-17 Motion to approve (Platania, Roberts)	Minor School Program Modification	HP		BS Historic Preservation	4/20/2016	<i>Passed without objection</i>
2016 – 18 Motion (Platania/ Moskowitz)	Minor School Program Modification	ARCH		Master of Architecture	4/20/2016	<i>Passed without objection</i>
2016 – 19 Motion to approve (Platania/Updike)	Minor School Program Modification	ARCH		BS in Architecture	4/21/2016	<i>Passed without objection</i>
2016 – 20 Motion to approve Platania/Updike	Modify Core Program	URBN		Urban Studies CORE	4/23/2016	<i>Passed without objection</i>

7. New business:

Senator concern - Faculty are being emailed degree audits regardless of their sabbatical status

a. Multi-section Exam Conflicts:

2016-21 Motion: Moskowitz /Roberts **That the Faculty Senate Executive Committee make a request to the President and Provost that multi-section/common final examinations are scheduled by the registrar so as to minimize conflicts for students taking two or more multi-section final examinations.** 23-0-0

Discussion focused on the difficulties of dealing with students who have two multi-section exams scheduled at the same time. Suggestions were to establish a place where students can take make-ups, or the establishment of time slot in the schedule to accommodate conflicts.

- b. Report on **Open Educational Resources (OER)** project—Senator Lindsey Gumb presented information the library’s OER program. The use of open source courseware in some cases can replace expensive textbooks thus saving our students significant amounts of money. The library and CSALTT have along with a number of faculty piloted using these resources in their courses. Faculty were not currently involved with this project are invited to explore the possibility of utilizing this quickly developing field of educational materials. Professor Gumb participated at an event with Rhode Island Governor Raimondo who is proposing

the use of OER in the state's public institutions of higher education, suggesting that it may save students \$5million a year. Dr. Paul Webb and Dr. Kelly Donnell were cited as an examples of OER fellows who are developing these resources for use in class and for the OER database. Questions were raised about copyrights; the only material available in OER repositories appears with permission of the author and are highly vetted. Question of how development of such resources will be valued in tenure and promotion processes.

c. Bookstore policy regarding purchasing from publishers

The issue was brought to the Senate by a faculty member who discovered that she cannot get access to the publisher's ancillary materials even though she ordered her text through the publisher, because the bookstore uses secondary suppliers.

2016 – 22 Motion (O'Connell/ Moskowitz) that the Faculty Development Committee to fact find regarding the inaccessibility of textbook ancillary materials from the publisher. Passed without objection.

d. Recommendations for Changes to the General Education program—preliminary discussion—Assoc. Dean Jason Jacobs distributed multi-page outline explaining current pilot first year course and considered future directions for the general education curriculum. Jacobs noted that in his capacity as Associate Dean for General Education, he is opening discussion about these proposed changes with the GECPC.

e. Possibility of scheduling courses on Providence campus—discussion item, Department Chair Professor MacPhee is exploring the possibility of having a course offering in Sociology (Urban Sociology) be scheduled in a Providence classroom. Issues of transportation of Bristol students (shuttle?) and whether or not Bristol and Providence students can take the same classes remain unresolved. Provost Workman will explore the issue and report to the Executive Committee.

f. Propriety of RWU's business with Wells Fargo—discussion and refer to committee

2016-23 Motion: Roberts/Moskowitz, friendly amendment Topf accepted.
“The Faculty Senate requests that Roger Williams University sever business

ties with Wells Fargo for their gross malfeasance relating to the fraudulent creation of accounts and other improprieties as it is inconsistent with the values and mission of the University and further and that President Farish is requested to report back to the Senate by November 1 on his acceptance or rejection of this motion, and further, that the Executive Committee be instructed to publish a press release.” Passed 13-6-1

A lively discussion ensued. President Farish explained how complicated it is for the University to change banks and how difficult it is to find a bank that behaves ethically. Pres. Farish will discuss the issue with his colleges in RIAICU and NACU.

Several senators raised concerns about a press release and wished to have the press release note that support for the motion is not unanimous.

g. Non-credit Study Abroad Courses—refer to Committee pending discussion of status of the Study Abroad Advisory Group

2016-24 Motion to table: Topf/Menton Passed without objection

h. Policies regarding public safety removing students from classes in session

2016-25 Motion Moskowitz/Roberts The Faculty Senate charges the Steering Committee to inquire about policies for removing students from classes in session and the role of the faculty in that process Motion carried 13-4-1

i. Policies regarding emergency training

2016-26 Motion Speakman/Topf To refer to University Life Committee the examination of emergency training and procedures and report back to the Senate. Passed 18-0-1

j. Curriculum policies (see separate document)

2016-27 Motion: to table Tehrani/Langdon Curriculum policies **13- 6- 0**

8. Adjourn