

Faculty Senate Minutes

November 7th, 2018

Roll Call: Updike, Stevens, Quezada-Grant, Tehrani, Thangaraj, Gumb, Bosco, Engvall, D'Amore, Knights, McKinley, MacPhee, Soto; Rebelo, Topf, Fenske, Pearce, Roberts, Sawoski, McCormack

Absent: Emmer

Guests: A Workman, R Cole, Student Senate Representative, Cheyenne Quintal

Announcements:

Mold concerns – see response from K. Souza below

Incidental, environmental, not lingering – please let us know about continuing problems

Remarks from Interim President Workman:

BoT meetings went well; new Board Chair is Tim Baxter - Alum and parent - first time anyone with that kind of connection has been Chair. He is encouraging BoT engagement and interaction with faculty and students; will work with Senate President Bosco to get there.

New tuition model, Senators Updike (and Soto?) attended the presentation

Tuition increase; folds most fees into tuition; moving costs from Room and Board into other places – more flexibility in many dimensions – pleased with the way it came out, and has been passed by Board.

Fall Open Houses are going well – 1783 students have visited (compared to 1600 year before) – new model of Open Houses is working well, giving students opportunity to “taste” programs without committing to any one – and opportunity to see Student Affairs and Athletics

If there are concerns, talk with Brian Williams

Survey about holiday party, trying to make changes about how we interact with one another – lots of people (400) returned it.

Will have an appreciation lunch on 12/20, give staff rest of day off. Cabinet will serve food to dining staff, so they can enjoy the lunch too.

Will host a family event – after graduation – with field day

Senator Soto expressed her thanks for the report on budget. She asked whether there is a plan to increase tuition year-to-year and whether the Law School would have an increase as well. Interim President Workman said there is such a plan for the University, but that the Law School is in a separate market and that has not yet been discussed.

Senator MacPhee asked whether moving tuition categories around for more fees absorbed gives flexibility on expenditures. The response was that tuition is not broken out by categories as it comes in, so this would not be the case.

Senator Tehrani – explained that NJ and MA community college programs with high schools. NJ community colleges are offering 300-level courses. This will be competition for us. Are we looking into the future? Is there a task force? The response was that we are already offering courses to High School students through UC . He added that RIC and URI free tuition will be hard on us, NY Excelsior program will be hard on us; we have a small decline in apps from certain sectors of NY.

Senate President Bosco asked whether there are chances to increase pricing for grad programs and UC? The response was that these are different models with different pricing. They were not included with the undergraduate changes already mentioned. We need various pricing plans for various needs.

Remarks from Acting Provost Cole:

He is continuing to consider questions and feedback from the discussion re: UC. Is it about curriculum? Operations? Sharing faculty? Lots of variables without a clear message from Senate about curricular pathways or oversight. As we tease out those complexities, we can't move ahead. Last proposal was that curriculum needed more oversight and the proposed curricular pathway report was not acceptable. Is it feasible for Bristol to have more oversight for PVD on curriculum?

Academic Affairs is working with Advancement – working on understanding connections

Day of Giving has been successful, especially with generous faculty and staff giving. Advancement wants to consolidate all efforts in a day of giving in the Spring – campaign to be focused on a short, intense campaign. Focusing on developing “area ambassadors” for Giving projects.

Committed to opportunities for faculty to develop themselves: He and Associate Provost Shea looked at Linda Beith's position, and they are close to proposing a faculty liaison model for carrying faculty development out with their colleagues. There will be a call at end of year or January for a short term solution through the spring, and then a more permanent basis in the Fall.

Master Plan – RFP has been answered, entered into a contract with a company on that; Academic Affairs needs to be represented at that table; time line is mid-spring into fall and will make sure there is good representation among faculty in those discussions leading to overall campus master plan, taking into consideration the needs for academics.

Still going to have needs for rehabilitating areas and accommodating needs as they arise, but don't want to build anything that is preemptive of what the plan might provide

Good discussion about Commencement concerns– John King and Bob Cole will bring materials from the University Life committee to the Cabinet to come up with a plan

Faculty gathering social hour – working with Senator Pearce

Spiegel Ctr: Not replacing Alyssa Poey this semester. Kevin Hayden and Becky Denson need more time to find and onboard people – programs are about to launch. We are in good shape. This is in Bob Shea's portfolio. Here, too, they will be looking for a temporary faculty liaison model to work on advising, troubleshooting, recruiting faculty: someone who is very knowledgeable and knows the ins and outs. They will replace Alyssa later in the spring.

Notes on the agenda a discussion of a Global Advisory Board. One already exists – would this be parallel? Are you looking to overhaul? What's not working? If you are proposing a new Board, work with the Global Office.

Faculty and Departments approve curriculum with the oversight of Deans – this isn't the Spiegel Center's purview.

Senator Tehrani: This is the role of faculty, to help each other, not about curriculum or syllabi. This is about the study abroad packet that addresses areas beyond curriculum.

Senator Roberts commented that the 2nd advisor feature is not working in the new system. Acting Provost Cole will let Registrar know

Curriculum forms have been changed– and hasn't been vetted by Faculty Senate – new form just appeared online on Monday (11/5). Acting Provost

Cole will ask Registrar O'Driscoll to make sure to get form vetted.

Senate President Bosco: Faculty liaison position could be worked on with the Faculty Development Committee, and Steering Committee could be involved for the Master Plan

Motion to adopt the Minutes of October 3rd Faculty Senate meeting – (Rebelo, Tehrani). Passes unanimously.

Motion to adopt the minor correction of the May 18, 2018 minutes (Topf/Roberts)

18-0-2 Motion passes

Acknowledgement of the receipt of the reports from June Speakman and Doug White related to their respective BoT subcommittees.

Motion to accept all of the Faculty Senate sub-committee reports (Executive – 10/5/18, Faculty Development – 9/19-18, Steering Committee-9/26/18 and 10/24/18, Academic Standards and Policies – 10/3/18 and 11/2/18, University Life 9/19/18 and 10/17/18 as a whole (Tehrani/Stevens). Passes unanimously.

Motion to accept changes to Bylaws for sub-committees (Topf/Tehrani). Passes unanimously.

(new Bylaws attached – approved 11/7/18)

Announcement that Faculty Senate website will be updated and is in progress. Bosco and D'Amore met with website staff, and determined that based on the Faculty Senate archiving needs, we will continue to use WordPress. A new version of WordPress and a new staff person are pending.

Senator Roberts: Why isn't the Faculty Senate using Drupal, since the rest of the RWU website is using that?

Senator D'Amore: As Recording Secretary, is familiar with WordPress and wants to be able to update the site. Also, meeting with website staff showed that Drupal isn't the best software to use for current Senate needs, including the ten year Archive of documents currently on the site. They had mentioned that documents would need to be kept offline if there was a switch to Drupal.

Motion by Senator Roberts to move Faculty Senate website to Drupal (Roberts/Soto)

Senator Roberts: we need consistency

Senator D'Amore: Meeting with Bosco, D'Amore, and website staff indicated WordPress was the best option for right now.

Senator Roberts: Every department has a person who updates the Drupal website. It's not hard.

Cheyenne: explained Hawklink and Weebly

Call to vote
9-5-6 Motion passes

Update from Associate Dean of General Education Jason Jacobs:

Looking forward to finding ways to work collaboratively and connectedly to meet core outcomes with new, innovative classes that interest and excite faculty

The curriculum system is still getting on its feet, but when Roger Central is working it will help students see how they can meet their general education outcomes through various course, and compel them to make choices for courses that they have interest in

Gen Ed is investigating restrictions and limitations that make things more difficult, hoping to have people think about ways that a core concentration maps onto program outcomes – need more rigorous discussion

Senator Tehrani: an example of something that makes things more difficult?

Jacobs: when core concentrations are too “close” to other programs, for example American Studies and Political Science, which were once seen as “too close” but actually aren’t.

Senator Soto: can adjuncts propose core classes? Jacobs: a department can propose a course, and invite an adjunct to teach it while department makes sure it meets the outcomes. This will depend on how departments want to manage this and make this play out.

Senator Pearce: have there been new core proposals? People who make up core concentrations?

Jacobs: Yes: American Sign Language for example

Brian Williams sees this as very marketable, as pathway to interesting experiences. We would like to reward this kind of innovation, not prevent it.

Motion from Senator Pearce

Move that the Faculty Senate support the following event (Pearce, Knights):

Faculty Happy Hour

What: An informal BYOB wine, beer, and snacks for full and part time faculty.

Who: Sponsored by faculty groups such as the Faculty Senate, school curriculum committees, etc. who will bring extra supplies to share. This is in the spirit of “buying a colleague a drink” to build connection and comradery.

When: On the first Friday of every month, from 3-6PM

Where: On campus, perhaps in the Sailing Center, or other location

Why: To increase awareness of the sponsoring groups’ work on campus, facilitate communication between representatives of committees and their constituents, provide an informal environment for faculty to connect across disciplines, and recruit and retain faculty members involved in self-governance.

How: University would supply a suitable place for mixing and mingling, faculty would supply the food and beverages.

Senator Pearce: Low stress entry point into meeting the Faculty Senate, and various committees who are doing work. Fridays. Provost will pay for alcohol, with limits –

Senator Topf: confirming that this is about committee sponsorship

There was discussion of event details and whether committee participation is voluntary (it is).

Senator Topf: Friendly amendment – “support” not “sponsor”. Accepted by Pearce and Knights.

Call to vote:

17-2-1 Motion passes

Motion from Steering Committee: The Faculty Senate requests that the Registrar’s Office provide quiet locations (e.g., the fieldhouse) for fall 2018 final exams in classes affected by noise from the SECCM construction project. (Ozer/MacPhee, Topf)

Senator MacPhee – re Steering Committee request: Looking for update on Law School as an alternate site

Passed unanimously.

Motion from Steering Committee: The Steering Committee requests that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee make inquiries to Public Safety and other administrative offices about the extent of classroom surveillance on campus and about policies regarding the rights of faculty and students observed in the process of this surveillance (MacPhee/Topf)

Senator MacPhee explained background: During the recent Emergency Drill K. Souza, Director of Environmental Health & Safety, told Dale Leavitt that his response was the “best on campus.” When he asked how she knew she reported that she had seen it on their cameras.

The Steering Committee was concerned about which classrooms are under surveillance and do faculty and students have rights about being recorded.

Discussion included concerns about use of footage for faculty evaluations, whether there are policies in place, including use and storage of recordings, the determination of an emergency, notice to those being recorded, and recognition that more security is needed on campus now.

Cheyenne Quintal (Student Senate Representative): as an RA, is familiar with protocol that campus camera footage is used in emergency situations – there is no sound, not monitoring it all the time – only go back to it in an emergency.

Senator Roberts made a friendly amendment for the Executive Committee to handle it. MacPhee, Topf accepted this amendment.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion from Admissions & Enrollment Committee: that the Senate recommend that students who have “walked” at commencement, and who must take up to two additional courses to complete graduation requirements, shall be charged the Summer tuition rate if the courses are taken either in Summer Session or in Fall semester.
(Topf/Tehrani)

Students will take their final classes elsewhere if they are unaffordable here.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion from Admissions & Enrollment Committee: that the Faculty Senate requests that SAS bring a speaker, or host a workshop series, for faculty, focusing on best practices for pedagogy and strategies for working in classrooms with “students on the spectrum” and other learning disabilities and that this topic be addressed at the Fall Faculty Conference. (Topf/Soto)

Discussion noted the changing nature of our students, and whether this request should be broader to include all learning disabilities (for example, no laptop policies can disadvantage some of these affected students), and that the Fall Faculty Conference would be a good time to offer such a workshop.

Senator Roberts: Friendly amendment that this be the subject of a Fall Faculty Conference, inclusive of both spectrum and other Learning Disabilities – both a series and the Fall Faculty Conference. Topf and Soto accept.

Call to vote

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION from the Curriculum Committee: The FSCC requests that the Executive Committee ask that the Acting Provost and Interim President ensure that all schools in the university have and follow an established process of curriculum review that ensures that all curriculum petitions meet the requirements established in the RWU Curriculum Policies, and that this process be published in a form that is accessible to all faculty, staff, and administrators. (Stevens/Updike)

There was discussion about whether schools should all have standard policies or just that they ensure that the curricular process be followed and concerns expressed that Deans may be interfering with some curricula.

Motion to extend time (Pearce/McCormack). Motion failed 6-10-2

Call to vote on main motion. Passed 17-0-1.

MOTION from the Curriculum Committee: The FSCC proposes the following changes to the RWU Curriculum Policies (Dated 12/16) (Stevens/Topf)

1. Any typographical errors found in catalog copy should be addressed directly to the registrar and do not need to go through the curricular process.
2. There will be two types of Curricular Petitions:
 - a. Technical Change: A mostly cosmetic change which does not affect the way the course is taught.
 - i. Course number change (same class level), course title, description changes (that are not content changes), frequency changes (i.e. fall, spring, special offering, etc.), removing pre-requisites, banking and unbanking courses.
 - ii. These changes will receive their final full review at the school curriculum committee and will then be sent to the FSCC and Faculty Senate for notification. Any objection on any technical change raised by a member of either the FSCC or Faculty Senate will bring that item up for full review by that body.
 - b. Substantive Change: This includes not only new courses and new programs but all other curricular changes that alter a course/program more than those listed above.
3. There will not be a second reading for any petitions unless there are questions or objections raised during its review process.

Senator Topf: will contribute a lot to moving curriculum through – recommends cutting words “mostly” and “cosmetic”. This was accepted by Stevens.

Comments were positive regarding these changes. Senator Stevens confirmed that a weekly email will be sent to all faculty informing them of petitions.

Call to vote. Passed unanimously.

New Business:

Motion from Senator Tehrani: formation of a Global Advisory committee:

Five experienced volunteers from different schools that take students abroad for duration of 1-2 years. The composition of this committee to be changed in a staggered system. Three of the volunteers shall be replaced by new volunteers (1-2 years) after the first year. At any given year, there shall be five members from different schools on this committee. (Tehrani/Quezada)

Discussion revealed several questions about the current committee and its relationship to the motion as well as others.

Motion to table (Soto/McCormack). Passed 15-1-2

Motion to adjourn at 4:30pm (Bosco/Updike)