

# Minutes

## ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

### FACULTY SENATE MEETING

November 2, 2011

**Attendance:** Senators P. Alfieri, B. Carr, P. Charles, M. Emmer, R. Evans, J. Fobert, K. Gentles-Peart, A. Hollingsworth, F. Hunter, H. Khan, R. Leuchak, C. Menton, D. Moskowitz, C. Murphy, N. Nester, R. O'Connell, L. Procaccini, L. Rossi, T. Ruocco, M. Sawoski, F. Schroth, T. Sorger, J. Speakman, M. Stein, J. Stevens, A. Tait, M. Tehrani, C. Timpson, M. Topf, L. Turner, S. Varano, K. Warren  
L. Laby (student senator), M. Rooney (student senator)

**Absent:** K. Donnell, D. Harvey, J. Roberts, B. Spritz, R. Woodruff,

**Guests:** President Farish, Interim Provost Potter, Dean Cole, B. Kenney

**Announcements:** President Topf's announcements:

1. The Senate Election Committee is going to hold an election for two faculty representatives to the Board of Trustees.
2. Gilbert Brunnhoeffler has been appointed to the position of Interim Dean of SEECM. As a result Matthew Stein is elected to take his place as a member of the Senate.
3. The bylaws of the Senate do not allow for proxy vote.

#### Items on the agenda:

1. Approval of Senate minutes of October 5, 2011.  
Minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Acknowledgment of receipt of standing committee minutes.
  - a. Admission and Enrolment – minutes of October 19.
  - b. Curriculum Committee – minutes of October 12 and October 19.
  - c. University Life Committee – minutes of October 19.
  - d. Academic Standards Committee – minutes of October 23.
3. Executive Committee report on meeting with President Farish on October 19, concerning matters raised by the Senate.

President Topf stated that items approved by the Senate would stay on the agenda of the Executive Committee meetings with the President, until an answer/resolution was provided.

**(A)** Status of academic Integrity policy passed last spring:

President Farish went to his Cabinet with the proposal from the Senate. He would inform the Senate of the administration's response when formulated.

**(B)** Regarding the Senate proposal to allow faculty to elect one honorary degree recipient. (Sept. 7)

President Farish's response: The Board of Trustees makes the selections. The Board is open to nominations from the faculty community, but the Board must oversee all selections. A Senate recommendation would bear significant weight with the Board. Selections are made in December. There is no budget for recipients.

**(C)** Regarding the policy purging emails after 90 days. (Sept. 7)

President Farish's response: About \$50,000-\$60,000 has been allocated for this purpose in the next year's budget. A faster and more reliable system will be installed that will allow for greater storage. It is anticipated that the limit will be extended to 6 months by the end of the fall semester.

**(D)** Regarding the Senate's recommendation that decisions to relocate programs, and decisions regarding other academic reorganizations, not be made without review by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. (Oct. 5)

President Farish is in agreement with the Senate recommendations.

**(E)** Regarding the Senate's concern that decisions to implement eight-week semesters were made without review by the Senate, and regarding the Senate's recommendation that proposed changes from the current times allocated for courses be subject to Senate review. (Oct. 5)

President Farish's response: The eight-week semesters and other changes, such as online, part-time, non-credit bearing programs will all be the subject of conversation in the future and thoroughly vetted through the curriculum review process, if appropriate. While enrollments are low in the new 8-week programs, they will continue because there are currently students in these courses.

In response to the question that "where we go from here", Dr. Farish stated that there were currently eight-week classes at Justice Studies and they would not be suspended. The current program mechanism was not clear and the process would be reviewed by the appropriate committees.

(F) Regarding the Senate's recommendation that course numbers for existing courses not be used for new courses. (Oct. 5)

President Farish is in agreement with the Senate recommendations.

(G) Regarding the Senate's recommendation that school and college curriculum committees be elected by the relevant departments or programs, and that committee chairs be elected by majority vote of the elected faculty members on the committee. (Oct. 5, as revised)

President Farish is in agreement with the Senate recommendations.

4. Report on the Interim Provost's response to the Senate's request that he inquire of the schools and departments concerning the accuracy and appropriateness of information on their websites, and that he report to the Senate in writing on the results of his inquiry. (Oct. 5)

President Topf stated that he had not received a report from the Interim Provost in regard to item #4 on the agenda. Interim Provost Potter responded that he had taken the issue to the Deans' Council and has asked the deans to take the issue to the chairs and faculty and asked them to pinpoint the relevant problem areas. Dr. Potter has also asked Judi Connery (Johnson) and Lynn Fawthrop to brief the Deans' Council and provide explanation as to the different phases and time lines for completion of the web site. Dr. Potter encouraged the Senate to extend an invitation to Judi Connery and Lynn Fawthrop.

The questions and concerns expressed by the senators:

- a. What is the source of information that appears on the web site?
- b. No one had approached and asked the science faculty for web site information. Some of the claims on the web site could create liability for the university.
- c. The lack of location and links to different information.
- d. The design of the web should not only facilitate the external entities access to information about our school, but also the internal audience should be taken into consideration.

Dr. Potter stated that inviting Judi Connery and Lynn Fawthrop would provide the Senate with an opportunity to discuss these issues.

Motion (F. Hunter, H. Khan): To invite Judi Connery and Lynn Fawthrop to the next meeting of the Senate.

Motion carried with 2 opposed and 1 abstention.

5. *Move* that the Faculty Senate recommends that for the selection of adjuncts, credentials be reviewed by the faculty members of the relevant department or program, which shall be provided with sufficient time for such review. The Senate further recommends that upon majority vote of the department or program faculty, the applicants' names be forwarded to the school or college dean for inclusion in the adjunct faculty pool for the designated courses.  
(M. Tehrani. From meeting of October 5, as revised.)

The motion was amended by M. Tehrani through the addition of the following sentence: Upon the majority vote of the department/program faculty, the selection of the adj faculty can be delegated to another entity (e.g., chair, dean).

Based on the collected information from several schools/departments/programs concerning the selection of the adj faculty, in different A & S departments, School of Education and the Writing Studies, the faculty/chairs of the departments/programs were the ultimate decision maker as to the selection of the adj faculty. The exceptions were GSB and SAHHP that the dean's office made decisions on the selection of the adj faculty.

The motion (M. Tehrani, R. O'Connell): The Faculty Senate recommends that for the selection of adjuncts, credentials be reviewed by the faculty members of the relevant department or program, which shall be provided with sufficient time for such review. The Senate further recommends that upon majority vote of the department or program faculty, the applicants' names be forwarded to the school or college dean for inclusion in the adjunct faculty pool for the designated courses. Upon the majority vote of the department/program faculty, the selection of the adj faculty can be delegated to another entity (e.g., chair, dean).

Approved: 26  
Opposed: 1  
Abstention: 3  
Motion carried.

6. [From the Diversity Committee] *Move* that the Faculty Senate approve the following Diversity Committee initiatives for 2011-2012:

- (A) to work with faculty to support the fall film event: "traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North," screening November 14;
- (B) to forward the University Diversity Statement (approved by the Senate in 2009) to the President's office and to the Board of Trustees for approval and public dissemination;
- (C) to follow up on outcomes of the President's Inclusive Excellence Committee and the Student Affairs Inclusive Excellence Strategic Plan;
- (D) to work with the Provost and Deans to develop a diversity plan for each School and broaden that diversity planning to administrative offices;

- (E) to work with the Provost and Schools to promote curricular opportunities, including development of cultural studies minors, e.g., Gender Studies, Latino Studies, and Africana Studies;
- (F) to investigate the creation of institutional partnerships with historically black colleges and universities; and
- (G) to continue to document the diversity initiatives across campus for the growing archive.

The motion was amended (F. Hunter, R. O'Connell): The faculty Senate **endorses** the following Diversity Committee initiatives for 2011-2012. (as noted above).

Comments were made as to if the faculty should take a more active role in enhancement of diversity on campus. R. Leuchak responded that the committee wanted to stay at this level of involvement.

Motion carried with 1 abstention.

7. Report from the General Education Committee (pursuant to a request by the Senate that the committee report on a set of action items and a timeline for an assessment of the current Core program).

There were discussions regarding if the Gen ED committee was a university or a senate committee. J. Stevens asked to reverse the item on the agenda and discuss Item #8 before Item #7. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Move that the Faculty Senate dissolve the General Education Committee. (C. Menton).

Discussion continued as to whether the Gen Ed was a senate or a university committee. According to the last year's Senate minutes, the Faculty Senate created the Gen Ed Committee and conducted the election, so this committee was a senate committee. Opposing view was that the Gen Ed Committee was a university committee and that the Senate was asked to conduct the election for its membership and also give it a charge.

The motion to dissolve the General Education Committee was not seconded and it was dissolved.

D. Moskowitz, M. Stein moved to table the report from the Gen ED Committee since the person who was in charge of the Gen Ed Committee was no longer at RWU.

Discussion ensued regarding the report and the charge of the Gen Ed Committee. Some discussions were about the role of the Gen Ed Committee in assessment versus the Core Curriculum Committee's. There were opposing views. Some senators argued that the Core Curriculum Committee has been in charge of assessment and was continuing doing so. The charge to the Gen ED Committee was to provide a report regarding a list of action items and a timeline as for "who, when and how" of the completion of the assessment. There were comments regarding the Gen Ed Committee report that the Gen ED Committee had gone beyond

the given charge. There were comments in recognition of the time and the hard work of the Gen Ed Committee and that stopping the Committee now would not be a good idea. Several senators emphasized the importance and the urgency of completing the assessment of the Core in regard to NEASC requirements.

R. Leuchak asked for the history to be put aside and if the Provost and President had any comments regarding the Gen Ed. Interim Provost Potter responded that his office was working on the Gen Ed issue and needed a bit more time to complete the work. President Farish reiterated Interim Provost Potter's comments and stated that the points to be addressed were along the areas of:

- a. Common core;
- b. General Education as a whole;
- c. The goals and objectives of the Gen Ed;
- d. What goals and objectives were accomplished?
- e. The expected outcomes;
- f. If the expected outcomes were a common experience among students.

President Farish said that assessment of the core needed to address the outcomes and goals that we wanted and the assessment of the current Gen Ed could provide such information. President Farish emphasized that the faculty had the primary voice in curricular issues followed by the Senate recommendations.

Vote on the motion: (D. Moskowitz, M. Stein) To table the report since the person who was in charge of the Gen Ed Committee was longer at RWU.

Approved—4

Motion did not carry.

N. Nester, S. Varano moved to endorse the Gen Ed report considering each line item, 1, 2, 3.

Discussion ensued that the report included other sections beyond the three line items.

Motion:

Approved—8

Opposed—16

Abstention—2

Motion did not carry.

R. O'Connell, J. Speakman moved to: Acknowledge the acceptance of the report without endorsement until we have heard the input of the administration about our liberal arts education.

The discussion ensued as to the Gen Ed Committee continuing with the assessment.

The motions was amended and moved by R. O'Connell, J. Speakman: Acknowledge the acceptance of the report without endorsement and asking the Gen Ed Committee not to take any further action until the Senate has heard the input of the administration about our liberal arts education.

Motion carried with 3 opposed and 1 abstention.

**New Item:** President Farish was asked if he would brief the Senate as to the search for the position of the Provost.

President Farish asked the Senate to select faculty members from across different disciplines to serve on the search committee. President Farish stated that he would not be using a consulting firm for the search. By mid-January, President Farish would like to have the committee in place. President Farish stated that he would like the faculty to take ownership over this process.

The senators applauded Dr. Farish's comments.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Minoos Tehrani

Sent out to all faculty: Nov. 13, 2011