

MINUTES

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

September 4, 2013

Attendance: Senators E. Adams, P. Alfieri, S. Bosco, J. Campbell, C. Carrington, G. Celik, J. Coon, D. Reynolds, S. Esons, A. Espinosa, G. Graham, K. Gentles-Peart, T. Hollingsworth, T. Langdon, A. Leguizamo, C. Menton, H. Noussi Kamdem, J. Platania, A. Rhyne, J. Robert, L. Rossi, M. Sawoski, A. Shelton, V. Sloan, J. Speakman, M. Stein, M. Tehrani, M. Topf, L. Turner, Y. Warnapala, M. WU

Absent: H. Khan, B. Marlowe, F. Schroth, A. Tait,

Guests: President Farish, Interim Provost Workman, Associate Provost Cole

Items on the agenda:

1. **Motion:** (J. Speakman, G. Graham): Approval of the Senate minutes of May 1, 2013. Minutes were approved unanimously.
2. President Farish:

President Farish welcomed the senators and stated that:

- Shared governance requires trust between faculty and administration. The past is gone. There are serious issues that the University needs to deal with, and the way to do it is by working together and coming up with ways to have effective communication between faculty and the president, the provost and deans.
- Admission: We have had a good year, but success in the future is not guaranteed unless we keep looking for ways to work with the faculty and have shared governance.

Questions:

Senator Sawoski inquired about the purchase of the property to the north of campus.

President Farish stated that the family who owns the property would like the University to purchase it. However, the middle part of the land is a wetland.

There is only a narrow area close to the edge of the water that is suitable for construction. At this time, the asking price is too high, but the negotiation is still ongoing.

Senator Campbell asked if anything could be done about the noise of the lawnmowers.

President Farish stated that he would look into the matter.

3. Provost Workman:

Provost Workman stated that:

- He was pleased with the Faculty Conference and the notes and recommendations that were gathered regarding the General Education. These comments will be used for further review of the core courses.
- There were also comments regarding Gen Ed from students with more than 1,000 signatures requesting inclusion of diversity and more flexibility in core courses.
- Provost Workman would like to review the graduate programs, specifically, recruitment of graduate students, financial aids and the structure of graduate for graduate programs. Provost Workman would like to consider how Continuing Education within the RWU faculty body.
- Catherine Capolupo is our new Vice President for Enrollment Management. There will be a student task force to look into enrollment issues in addition to the three sub-committees of the Enrollment Task Force that was put together last year. Provost Workman asked for three representatives for these three subcommittees: Committee for Coordination between Academic and Student Affairs, Assessment Committee and Logistics and Operations.
- Joan Romano is the new Registrar. Many changes have been implemented to improve the system, including the new advisee site with the pictures of advisees and a new degree audit. In addition, quite a few students were waiting for finalization of their May 2012 graduation. All the backlogs are cleared.
- Roxanne O'Connell has created an online curriculum process approval site and we are looking into standard software to make the process more streamlined and transparent flowing from curriculum proposal directly to the catalog.

- How do we compensate for days that are lost due to natural disaster?
- Virtual desktop initiative has worked well in the School of Architecture and feedback from students has been positive.

Questions:

Senator Gentles-Peart inquired about the new orientation for the international faculty.

Provost Workman stated that there were a number of policy changes, for example, assisting the international faculty in obtaining a Green Card.

Senator Bosco stated that currently, the graduate programs are very haphazard. It is not clear if the schools make the decisions or administration and if there should be a graduate admission office.

Provost Workman stated that he would look into policies of graduate admission.

4. New Business: President Stein asked if there was any new business.
 - a. Senator Turner inquired about the problems with faulty computers that are Macintosh, which apparently must be taken to the Apple store not IT although that policy is not articulated. Provost Workman asked for details to be able to assist in solving the problem.
 - b. Senator Bosco stated that there was not much support and access to resources for project-based learning initiatives. Provost Workman stated that he would look into the issue.
5. **Motion** (M. Stein, M. Topf): The Senate directs the president to implement the following working rules for this Senate year.
 - a. Members may speak twice on any motion
 - b. When no business is before the Senate for five minutes the chair will move to adjourn
 - c. Committees reports presenting motions will be placed highest on the agenda

VP Tehrani suggested considering the proposed topics separately.

- a. **Motion** (M. Stein, G. Gary): Members may speak twice on any motion.

Discussion: Such motion makes the discussion more constructive. Robert's Rules of Order can be followed, but the Senate president can have discretion over the matter.

Motion carried with 20 in favor, 9 opposed and one abstention.

- b. **Motion** (M. Stein, M. Topf): When no business is before the Senate for five minutes, the chair will move to adjourn.

Discussion pursued as to clarification of the motion.

The motion was clarified as:

Motion (V. Sloan, M. Tehrani): New motions to be brought up to the Senate after five minutes of discussion.

Motion carried with 26 in favor and 3 opposed.

- c. **Motion** (M. Stein, M. Topf): Committees' reports presenting motions will be placed highest on the agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 6. President Stein stated that the Senate needs to elect a representative to the following committees:

- a. Dean's Council—Since the Dean's Council meets throughout the summer, election in the future to be conducted in April so the elected member can start attending the meetings in July. The Council meets every other Tuesday from 10:00 am -12:00.

J. Speakman and A. Espinosa were nominated. A. Espinosa was elected as the Senate representative on the Dean's Council.

- b. Online and Distance Education Committee—C. Menton was the nominee. C. Menton will be the Senate representative on this committee.
- c. Provost Committee on First Year Experience—Provost Workman stated that at this time, Nancy Nester and Becky Spritz will continue to be on this committee and he would like to have three more faculty representatives.

Motion (M. Tehrani, M. Topf): To charge the Senate Election Committee to conduct the election.

Motion carried with one abstention.

- d. Continuing Studies Review Ad Hoc Committee—Two representatives are needed from School of Education and SJS.

Motion (J. Speakman, M. Tehrani): The Senate Election Committee to be charged with election of two non-senators to the committee.

Motion carried with one abstention.

- e. Provost Fund for Student Research—J. Roberts stated that he was on this committee and the election should be conducted in a way to keep one or the other representative on committee to have continuity.

Motion (J. Speakman, A. Espinosa): Elect one representative each spring to alternate the representatives on this committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Representative Report

- a. Faculty Representatives to the Board of Trustees-- M. Topf stated that based on the minutes of 3/7/2012 of the Faculty Senate, which was passed unanimously: *“Faculty liaisons to Board committees shall report in writing to the Faculty Senate within ten days after each meeting of their respective committees. The liaisons may report at such other times, as they believe the Senate should be informed of their respective committees’ activities. If a Board committee has not met for three months, or if a Board committee has barred its faculty liaison from a meeting, then the liaison shall so report to the Senate.”*

Senator Topf stated that currently, M. Topf, J. Speakman, S. Esons are the Senate representatives on three committees of the Board of Trustees. They were supposed to attend these committee meetings with some exceptions (i.e., closed Board meeting). However, the representatives have not received any notice for attending these meetings.

President Farish stated that this was an oversight on his part. These committees meet four times a year, with the first meeting taking place in October. However, last year, the announcement was not sent to the faculty members.

b. Dean’s Council Report

J. Speakman was the Senate representative on the Dean’s Council last year. Senator Speakman stated that the Dean’s Council discusses many issues of importance to the academic community and it is worthwhile and interesting to attend the meetings. Senator Speakman pledged to provide her written reports of last year’s meetings.

8. Referral of issues to Committees for study and recommendations

- a. **Motion** (M. Stein’ J. Speakman): Charge the Steering Committee to investigate and develop proposals for a new or revised constitution to be reported to the Senate by the November meeting.

Discussion: There was a lengthy discussion regarding this motion at the Faculty Conference and also at the Senate. Comments were made to replace the word investigate with review. There was a suggestion to move the due date of such report to March 2014 from November 2013.

No change was made to the motion.

Motion carried with 18 in favor and 12 opposed.

- b. **Motion** (Stein on behalf of Provost Workman, A. Rhyne): Charge the Senate Academic Standards and Policies committee with developing a policy governing class cancellation due to campus-wide disruptions.

Discussion: There was a lengthy discussion regarding if the above motion was the purview of the Faculty Senate or RWUFA.

Motion failed to carry with 12 in favor and 17 opposed.

Senator Speakman stated that some of the Senators are also on the Executive Committee of RWUFA. She suggested that Provost Workman discuss the issue with RWUFA.

- Motion** (J. Speakman, S. Esons): To ask RWUFA to review and recommend a policy governing class cancellation due to campus-wide disruptions.

Motion carried with 23 in favor, 5 opposed and one abstention.

- c. **Motion** (V. Sloan, A. Rhyne): Charge the Curriculum Committee to report on consequences to curriculum proposal deadlines now that catalogs are no longer printed.

There was a discussion about moving away from hard copy university catalogue to online catalogue, the searchability of the online catalogue and the deadline that would be required for submitting materials. There was a question as to when the omitted approved curricular proposals could be added to the catalogue.

Provost Workman stated that he would look into this matter.

No vote was taken on this motion.

- d. **Motion** (Stein on behalf of Provost Workman, A. Leguizamo): Charge the Faculty Development Committee with devising a plan to encourage faculty to develop proposals for graduate programs.

Discussion: There was a discussion as to what the word “encouragement” entails.

Senator Speakman asked the Senate Executive Committee to include a representative of every school on the Provost Graduate Committee.

Motion (J. Speakman, A. Leguizamo): The Faculty Senate authorizes the Executive Committee to request that participation on the Provost’s Graduate

Committee be expanded to include faculty representatives from all academic units that have graduate program.

Motion carried unanimously.

Provost Workman stated that there was no need for a vote. He will do so.

9. New Business:

- a. **Motion** (A. Rhyne, M. Tehrani): To Charge the Academic Standards & Policies Committee with revising or reaffirming (with the goal of developing standards that are more concrete) the current policy on “participation in Commencement”.

Discussion: Even though the policy in the University Catalogue states that students with two or less courses not completed can participate in Commencement, this policy has not been followed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm

Submitted respectfully,
Minoo Tehrani
September 5, 2013—Executive Committee
September 12, 2013—Faculty Senate
September 12, 2013—Faculty Senate—Draft #2