

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

December 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, Langdon, A. Leguizamo, C. Menton, H. Noussi Kamdem, Hasan Khan J. Platania, A. Rhyne, J. Roberts, L. Rossi, A. Shelton, V. Sloan, J. Speakman, M. Stein, M. Topf, L. Turner, Y. Warnapala, M. Wu

Absent: A. Hollingsworth, B. Marlowe, M. Sawoski, M. Tehrani

Guests: President Farish, Provost Workman, Student Senators David Kendall and Tim LeBel

1. **Motion:** (Schroth, Leguizamo): Approval of the Senate minutes of November 6, 2013. Minutes were approved without objection.
2. President Farish:
 - December 11 is the University Holiday Party
 - December 6 is the meeting of the Board of Trustees:
 - First draft of next year's budget will be discussed by the Budget and Planning Committee
 - Relocation of academic Programs - Law school in running a deficit as there are 375 students at the law school today, compared with 575 three years ago. While the university is not supposed to "backstop" the LS budget, the board is looking for ways that RWU can assist, the goal being to balance the LS budget without compromising academic quality or laying off staff. Possible solutions are the absorption of LS staff by RWU, consolidation of departments, or RWU renting space in the law school building. The administration has been "shopping around" the "garden level" and any Senate motion about its use is premature.
 - Several Senators asked questions about why faculty are not involved in the space allocation process, noted that communication was not good on the issue, and asked if this was about space only, or changes in the organization chart.
 - Sen. Campbell asked about the placement of a new smoking gazebo between CAS and SECCM and whether or not there had been consultation on that issue. Pres. Farish responded that this issue, as well as the timing and frequency of mowing and leaf-blowing, would be the subject of an advisory group regarding physical space. The new gazebo was in reaction to the fact that there is a greater need for smoking spaces to address the fact that smokers were smoking in the open.
3. Provost Workman:
 - Law School: Provost Workman also spoke to the issue of space in the law school. That there is a space deficit in the undergraduate division and an excess of space in the law school. That the School of Education has long sought to relocate from the

Library, and the LS presents an opportunity to move some departments around to accommodate that need and the need to use the excess space in the LS.

- Printed catalogs: the Provost has heard faculty concerns on this matter and will provide them to faculty who request them.
- Interdisciplinary Programs governing structure: the Provost is talking with the Deans about this, and will present a revised policy to the Senate in February.
- Samsung dedication: December 6th
- BioNes: December 6
- MNS 40th anniversary: December 7
- Question from Sen. Rhyne about whether we have sufficient infrastructure to support the cloud system. Provost Workman responded that the university is hiring an outside consultant to evaluate it, and the consultant will consult with faculty.

4. Student Senate—report from Sens. Kendall and LeBel.

- The student senators circulated a summary of senate business. Among the issues that the Student Senate has been working on this year:
- Parking—in particular regarding the needs of commuter students. Also, recommendations regarding shuttle frequency and routes to decrease tension with Bristolians. The Student Senate is developing an Ad Hoc committee on Community Relations to work on these issues.
- Desserts with the Deans—new event that has been deemed a success
- Finance—the Senate has funded clubs and organizations at a level of \$18,000, and has funded student attendance at conferences. The Senate is considering seeking an increase in the Student Activities Fee by \$12/semester to permit increased support. Faculty Senator Shelton noted that her students have received support.
- Veterans Day—Student Senate passed a resolution urging the cancellation of classes at 11 am on 11/11 to increase student attendance at the university ceremony.

5. Executive Committee: President Stein reported on the meeting of 11/22/13

- Regarding the Senate's questions about admission and integration of cohorts of international students, Pres. Stein reports that the provost explains that this is among his highest priorities.
- Regarding the forthcoming policy book: Pres. Stein will work with the administration about integrating Senate policies/decisions into written policies available to the university and implemented as standard operating procedures.
- Regarding the relationship between President's Council on Inclusive Excellence and the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee, President Farish agrees there is some overlap and confusion as to the function of these two groups and has promised to give this issue further consideration.

6. Representative Reports:

- Sens. Speakman, Topf and Avelina presented their reports. Sen. Topf made particular note of the plan to reorganize Student Support Services.

7. Curriculum Committee, Sen. Alfieri reporting

Pres. Stein asked if any senator would like to have one of the listed courses removed from the list for separate consideration. Sen. Speakman asked to have EMS 121 and EMS 211 removed.

Motion (Alfieri, Graham) To approve the FSCC proposals, as presented. Motion passed with one abstention

<u>SECCM #AY13-14-01 NMC – CNST 130 Semester Change</u>	<u>SJS NMC SEC 450 Change in Description</u>
<u>SECCM #AY13-14-02 NMC – CNST 116 Change Semesters</u>	<u>SJS- NMC SEC 450 Title Change</u>
<u>SECCM #AY13-14-03 NMC Unbank COMSC 330 Principles of Software Design</u>	<u>SJS- SAS & NETSEC Majors NMC Change in req’s – Drop BUSN 305/SEC 350</u>
<u>NMC SAS major & Digital Forensics Cert – Change in req’s</u>	
<u>AS 2012-97 NP: Computational Mathematics Minor</u>	
<u>AS 2013-02 NC GSS 100: Intro to Gender and Sexuality Studies</u>	<u>AS 2013-27 MNC CW 440: change in description</u>
<u>AS 2013-12 MNC Film Studies: Changes to required courses</u>	AS 2013-28 MNC CW 350: change in description
<u>AS 2013-15 MNC COMM 340: Change in course name</u>	AS 2013-29 MNC CW 210: update catalog copy
<u>AS 2013-19 MJC Marine Biology Minor requirements</u>	
<u>AS 2013-23 NC PSYCH 326: Health Psychology</u>	<u>AS 2013-31 MNC POLSC 305: Change Title and Desc.</u>
<u>AS 2013-24 NC PHYS 350: Computational Physics</u>	
<u>AS 2013-25 NC PHYS 420: Quantum Mechanics</u>	

Motion (Alfieri, Topf) To approve EMS 121 and EMS 211. Approved without objection.

Dr.Swiczewicz was present to discuss these courses. RI Dept of Health asked RWU to provide EMT certification courses. Any EMT in RI will have to take these courses. Military

personnel, including Coast Guard, may also use this training. The certificate requires 4 6-credit courses. The curriculum is written by the national certifying agency, the trainer is accredited by that agency and is not a member of the RWU faculty. These courses are not affiliated with an RWU academic program. The courses will take place at 150 Washington, with the lab being taught at another location in Providence.

Sen. Platania noted that there were 10 petitions ready for Senate approval that were not included in Sen. Alfieri’s motion. Sen. Alfieri located those petitions and offered a motion to approve the curriculum changes.

Motion (Alfieri, Topf): To approve the following as recommended by the FSCC.

Approved with one abstention

AS 2013-16 MNC COMM 390: Change in pre-req and fulfillment.	AS 2013-06 MNC BIO/CHEM 390: Change in Sem Offered
AS 2013-21 NC COMM 402: Media Relations	AS 2013-05 MNC BIO/CHEM 395 Lab: Change in Title
AS 2013-10 MNC PSYCH 361: Change in #, prereq, title	AS 2013-04 MNC BIO/CHEM 395: Change in Title and Course #
AS 2012-103 MNC WTNG 402:	AS 2012-99 MNC PHYS 201: Change in content
AS 2012-105 NC PHIL 181: Philosophy in Film	AS 2012-98 MNC PHYS 109: Change in Content
AS 2012-80 MNC PHYS 202: Change in content	AS 2012-81 MNC PHYS 110: Change in content
AS 2012-82 MNC PHYS 201: Change in prereq	AS 2012-106 NC DSGN 220: Advance Typography
AS 2012-110 MNC BIO/CHEM 390 Change in Course Title	

8. Faculty Development Committee (Gentles-Peart reporting)

Excellence in Teaching Award: The committee seeks to change the process in order to elevate above a mere popularity contest. The committee is developing criteria that should be more detailed and clearer, evidence requirements that are more substantive, and a selection process that is a blind review. This will make the award more prestigious, especially if the provost enhances the “reward” that accompanies the award.

Some senators expressed doubts that a blind review process is feasible in our small campus.

9. Steering (Platania reporting)

Motion (Platania, Topf) To adopt the Faculty Senate organizational chart and corresponding changes to the constitution. Passed without discussion and with three abstentions.

Motion (Stein, Topf): To fix the number of at-large senators to three. Motion carried 15-12-2

Sens. Roberts, Sloan and Speakman spoke in opposition to the motion, noting the larger number is more democratic, that a larger number makes it easier to fill committee vacancies, and that a larger number offers more opportunities to get involved.

Sens. Adams and Stein spoke in support, noting that the smaller number will keep at-large in balance with the new smaller senate, and that five might increase the impact that one unit will have on the overall body.

10. University Life (Roberts reporting)

Motion (Roberts, Bosco): The Senate requests that the administration convert.....

Sen. Roberts explained that this motion emerged from a discussion at Safe Zone training that focused on the goal of inclusivity. Sen. Rhyne reported that the MNS faculty support the motion. Sen. Campbell would like to see paper towels returned to the restrooms. Motion approved 25-2-2.

11. Diversity (Leguizamo reporting)

Sen. Leguizamo provided an update on planning for the Fall Faculty Conference, part of which will be devoted to diversity on campus. A faculty member from Bridgewater will be involved in the planning.

Motion (Leguizamo, Bosco): The Faculty Senate charges the Diversity Committee to work with the Faculty Development Committee to develop a Faculty LLC to start in Fall 2014 focused on diversity issues. Motion to table was passed by voice vote.

Sen. Gentles-Peart explained that the FDC cannot endorse any additional LLCs until it issues a call, receives applications and undertakes its decision process. The FDC will entertain applications from committees as well as individuals. As a result, the motion was tabled.

12. Old business: Constitutional Changes: Second reading of constitutional changes at the November meeting. All of the changes were passed by voice vote and will be distributed to faculty in draft form by December 21st in accordance with the plan adopted at the Fall Faculty Conference.

13. Old business: Continuing Studies Ad Hoc Committee

The committee was created and populated but has no charge. Should it continue? Several senators spoke in favor of keeping the committee given that there are questions that remain unanswered.

Motion (Celik, Speakman) The Senate charges the committee to clarify outstanding issues and increase methods of communication with the School for Continuing Studies.

Motion approved with one abstention.

Pres. Stein agreed to contact the members of the committee and instruct them to convene and (s)elect a chair.

14. New business: Interdisciplinary programs

Motion (Stein, Shelton): The Senate charges the Executive Committee to follow up with the provost on the implementation of a governance structure for Interdisciplinary Programs. Motion approved unanimously.

Pres. Stein reports the Provost's comment that the deans are discussing this proposal. The Executive Committee will follow up on that discussion and report back to the Senate.

15. New business: Motion (Bosco, Topf): Charge the Faculty Development Committee meet with the Human Subjects Review Board (HSRB) regarding its new requirement that all students and faculty who submit HSRB proposals take a 4-6 hour online research course before their proposals will be reviewed by the HSRB. The FDC should inform the Senate and all faculty (if appropriate) regarding this requirement and the plan for its implementation. Motion tabled.

Discussion focused on the flow of communication about the policies of the committee, specifically regarding the CITI training and the cases in which HSRB review is required. Why this course? Are there others available? Are internal surveys subject to the Board's review? The Provost agreed to improve communication.

16. New business: Relocation of School for Justice Studies: Given Pres. Farish's and Provost Workman's earlier comments regarding the space issues and the law school, the question was raised about whether or not the motion should be moved. Sen. Speakman replied that given that the provost indicated that the relocation of SJS was still on the table, the Senate should consider a motion of support for the SJS faculty. Sen. Topf opposed the Senate taking a position of allocation of space. Sen. Coon presented information about the negative consequences of windowless workspace.

Motion (Speakman Esons): The Faculty Senate recommends that any decisions regarding the physical relocation of academic programs be done in consultation with the Faculty Senate and the affected departments. Motion carries 26-1-2

Motion (Speakman, Coon): The Faculty Senate supports our colleagues in SJS in their desire to stay in their current location in FCAS. Sen. President called for a motion to extend the meeting. Hearing nothing, he asked for a motion to adjourn, which was offered and seconded, and passed without objection. No action was taken on the substantive motion.

Adjournment at 4:30.

Submitted by June Speakman, 12/13/13