

MINUTES
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
February 12, 2014
Library Seminar Room - 2:00 PM

Attendance: Senators, P. Alfieri, J. Campbell, C. Carrington, G. Celik, P. Charles, J. Coon, A. Espinosa, S. Esons, Gentles-Peart, T. Hollingsworth, H. Khan; T. Langdon, B. Marlow, C. Menton, H. Noussi Kamdem, D. Reynolds, A. Rhyne, J. Roberts L. Rossi, M. Sawoski, V. Sloan, J. Speakman, M. Stein, M. Tehrani, M. Topf, L. Turner, Y. Warnapala, M. Wu

Absent: E. Adams, S. Bosco, A. Leguizamo, J. Platania, F. Schroth, A. Shelton

Guests: President Farish, Provost Workman

Items on the agenda:

1. Approval of minutes of December 4, 2013 (attachment)

Minutes were approved unanimously

2. President Farish: Three items to discuss:

- a. There will be a meeting of the Board of Trustees in the month of February. The budget for the next academic year will be presented to the Board. Applications are 10% higher at this time compared to last year's but there is still much work ahead to convert these into enrollment. The campuses close to RWU were down 8% on average.

We are looking into ways to do a better job in recruiting students and we need depth in our budget. We are trying to balance the university budget working with the deans and we will share all the facts with the faculty.

- b. Attended the National Association of Higher Ed in DC, and the RI representatives of the Higher Ed institutions met with all the congressional representatives and senators of RI. The ranking of Higher Ed institutions by the Federal government and publication of such information is anticipated to reflect poorly on many schools including RI schools. The factors that are used to rank Higher Ed institutions (e.g., net tuition, graduation rate) are not necessarily representative of the quality of education delivered by such institutions. Higher Ed organizations believe that such ranking is a terrible idea and we do not know how parents will react to such information. Federal government will publish the report next year. RWU will not fare well under such a ranking system. I hope that the meeting with the RI representatives in DC will make a difference.

- c. The incident that was related to a former RWU law school student was handled properly and there was no physical threat to the RWU community at any time.

3. Provost Workman:

- a. The software for registration will be ready for pre-registration this semester and the many technical problems will be addressed by then.
- b. Curricular processes are in the implementation stage. The provost is forming an implementation committee of school and division curriculum committee chairs and the Faculty Senate can nominate two senators to this committee if it chooses.
- c. A review of the IT Division is underway and the faculty will be asked to provide feedback.

4. Report of the Committees:

Report of the Executive Committee: President Stein reviewed the report:

- a. The gender inclusive bathrooms were approved.
- b. The senate proposal for inter-disciplinary governance not was accepted by the administration. One consideration cited by the administration was the cost of faculty administrative releases.

Provost Workman stated that some inter-disciplinary programs are under specific departments and they would like to keep them where they are. Meanwhile, some other such programs cut across different departments and providing release times will be too extensive and expensive. The review of the leadership for interdisciplinary programs is under way and the Provost Office will set forth a proposal for such leadership.

- c. The president and provost reiterated that any physical relocation of programs would be made through a thoroughly inclusive decision process.

President Stein stated that he was asked to nominate some faculty to the SWOT Analysis Committee during the winter break and he did so.

Motion (M. Stein, G. Celik): Senate endorses the plan to change the classes that do not meet on Wednesday, 2/19, to meet on 2/19 with understanding that the faculty who could not make it to class do not need to do so.

Motion failed, with 6 yes, 13 opposed, and 5 abstentions.

5. Representative Report:

a. Senator Espinosa – Dean’s Council (attachment)

Senator Espinoza reviewed the report and explained that the policy of changing classrooms was discussed in the Dean’s Council. The Registrar’s office will not change a classroom when it impacts other scheduled courses.

Senator Speakman stated that in some instances the classroom was not suitable to the need for technology to teach the course.

Provost Workman stated that this issue would be reviewed, but changing classrooms should come through a formal request.

b. Senators Rhyne – Budget and Planning Committee

Senator Rhyne reviewed the report extensively on the meetings of the Budget and Planning Committee. He stated that making financial decisions solely based on cost-benefit analysis would ignore the cross value of courses and programs. One needs to look at the true value of courses and programs and their contribution as foundation to other courses and programs regardless if they show profitability in a cost-benefit analysis.

Senator Rhyne stated that the administration should calculate the benefit of increasing enrollment versus the cost of admitting students with lower GPAs and no SATs.

Senator Rhyne stated that the consultant hired for this analysis was knowledgeable, but the models and techniques that he was utilizing could use further scrutiny. In addition, the data used were very small to be able to have a valid inference based upon such small database. There is a need to use more advanced business analytics techniques to develop models that are more comprehensive.

c. Curriculum (Senator Alfieri)

Motion (P. Alfieri, M. Tehrani): The full senate approves the following proposals approved at the November meeting of the FSCC.

SECCM #AY13-14-04 NMC - Establishing specializations within the Computer Science Major.

Motion carried with 24 in favor and 1 abstention.

Motion (P. Alfieri, M. Tehrani): The full senate approves the following proposals approved at the January 2014 meeting of the FSCC with understanding that CPC Studies were tabled.

1. [SECCM #AY1314-13 Change business elective to list of approved courses](#)
2. [SECCM #AY1314-08 Minor in Engineering-Environmental Focus](#)
3. [SECCM AY13-14-06 Change course description ENGR 450](#)
4. [SECCM #AY13-14-07 Prerequisite change to ENGR 445](#)
5. [SECCM #AY13-14-05 Change of semester offered for ENGR 300](#)
6. [~~Marketing 429 \(CPC Studies\)~~](#)
7. [~~Management 429 \(CPC Studies\)~~](#)
8. [~~International Business 429 \(CPC Studies\)~~](#)
9. [~~Finance 429 \(CPC Studies\)~~](#)
10. [~~ECON 429 \(CPC Studies\)~~](#)
11. [~~Web Development 429 \(CPC Studies\)~~](#)
12. [~~Accounting 429 \(CPC Studies\)~~](#)
13. [SJS- NC – CJS-2XX Comparative Criminal Justice](#)
14. [AS 2013-38 NC PHYS 430: Special Topics in Physics](#)
15. [AS 2013-17 NC GSS 420: Gender and Sexuality Studies Seminar](#)
16. [SECCM #AY1314-12 Change required math course from MATH 330](#)

Table 1 Curriculum change proposals February 2014

Motion carried with 24 in favor and 1 abstention.

Motion (P. Alfieri, M. Tehrani): The Senate accepts the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee and adds a new minor in Engineering-Robotics Focus.

[SECCM #AY1314-10 Minor in Engineering-Robotics Focus](#)

Motion carried with 24 in favor and 1 abstention.

Motion (P. Alfieri, M. Tehrani): The Senate accepts the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee and adds a new minor in Engineering-Robotics Focus.

[**AS 2013-01 NP: Gender and Sexuality Studies Minor**](#)

Motion carried with 24 in favor and 1 abstention.

Motion (P. Alfieri, J. Campbell): The Senate accepts the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee and adds a new minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Motion carried with 24 in favor and 1 abstention.

Motion (P. Alfieri, H. Khan): The senate charges the FSCC chair with circulating a reminder to faculty that the following supporting materials be submitted along with each proposal:

- **Dated materials from the departments involved**
- **Documentation that supports the integration of courses from other departments**
- **The minutes from all the preceding committees.**

Motion carried with 20 in favor and 4 abstentions.

d. Faculty Development (Senator Gentles-Peart)

Senator Gentles-Peart discussed the attached revision to procedures governing the Excellence in Teaching Award. She stated that the Committee is trying to develop criteria to include professors that are excellent in teaching. However, the issue becomes how to accomplish such a task without a conflict with the faculty contract. There will be a motion before the Senate in the March meeting about this proposal.

e. Academic Standards and Policies (Langdon)

Motion (T. Langdon, M. Tehrani): The Faculty Senate Academic Standards and Policies Committee to be charged with discussing and making recommendations regarding a set of university-wide policies and procedures for awarding Thesis with Distinction.

Discussion: Honors program should not be a clearinghouse for the thesis with Distinction that is not part of the honors program. There is a need to have a policy in place to review where and by whom such a thesis is reviewed and graded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion (T. Langdon, J. Speakman): To charge the Academic Standards and Policies Committee to set forth a proposal regarding students with an “I” in a course that audit the same course during the subsequent semester.

Discussion: There is widely expressed concern about the use of the incomplete and the audit, and agreement that there needs to be more clarity. For example, if a student receives an incomplete and then audits a section from a different faculty, who assigns the grade?

Motion carried unanimously.

f. Steering (Senator Topf on behalf of Platania)

Motion (J. Platania, J. Speakman): Charge the Steering Committee with reviewing RWU Curriculum Policies (including Curriculum Flow Chart) for accuracy and completeness with respect to the curriculum review process. Report to the Faculty Senate recommendations to resolve discrepancies.

Discussion: The review of the curricular procedures shall be conducted by the Senate Curriculum Committee. The Senate Curriculum Committee had proposed several motions that were further approved and implemented in the past three years as for the procedures.

Motion failed with 10 in favor, 11 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

6. Old Business

President Stein stated that in the past faculty have rejected the argument that a Course Evaluation with 10% response rate is “representative” and therefore still valid. President Stein will not now employ the same argument by attempting to draw conclusions from a faculty survey that only yielded a 15% response rate.

a. Survey results (attachment) and incidental language changes to the constitution

i. Motion (M. Stein, V. Sloan)Description of the Steering Committee

Discussion: The words “experienced senators” needed clarification.

Motion (M. Stein, M. Tehrani) to table the motion. Motion was tabled.

ii. Motion (M. Stein, J. Speakman): Senate may call for special meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

iii. Motion (M. Stein, J. Speakman): Amendment procedures.

Discussion: The general sense of the senate is that language describing the steering committee and the amendment procedure should be improved, but there was a reluctance to wordsmith these changes on the senate floor.

President Stein will circulate proposed language to senators by email and will present consensus language as motions in the March meeting.

Motion to table (M. Tehrani, J. Speakman). Motion was tabled.

7. New Business

Motion: (J. Speakman, M. Tehrani): To charge the Curriculum Committee to review the procedures for curricular proposals.

Motion carried with 21 in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

Submitted Respectfully

Minoo Tehrani

2-17-2014