

**MINUTES**  
**ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**March 5, 2014**  
**Library Seminar Room - 2:00 PM**

**Present:** B. Celik, S. Bosco, J. Campbell, C. Carrington, P. Charles, C. Menton, J. Coon, J., S. Esons, A. Espinosa, K. Gentles-Peart, G. Graham, A. Hollingsworth, H. Khan, T. Langdon, A. Leguizamo, P. Marlowe, H. Noussi Kamdem, J. Platania, D. Reynolds, A. Rhyne, L. Rossi, M. Sawoski, F. Schroth, V. Sloan, J. Speakman, M. Stein, M. Tehrani, M. Topf, L. Turner, Y. Warnapala, M. Wu

**Absent:** P. Alfieri, E. Adams, J. Roberts, J., A. Shelton

**Guests:** President Farish, Provost Workman

**Items on the agenda:**

**1. Approval of minutes of February 12, 2014 (attachment)**

Minutes were approved unanimously after a minor clarification from A. Rhyne who had joined the last meeting by Skype.

**2. President Farish:** Updated the Faculty Senate on the following items:

- a. The Budget Planning Committee will meet twice more this semester, with the final meeting in May.

In response to a question, President Farish reiterated that the data regarding the budget would be analyzed, but there would be no actions taken yet and that the Faculty Senate would be kept informed.

- b. Ongoing student recruitment currently shows a 10% increase in number of applicants, but also a 20% decrease in deposits. However, these are yet early days.
- c. Accepted Student Days (ASDs) have been good this year with much interest and positive response from students and parents. President Farish noted that the message delivered at the ASD is clearer and more consistent in its articulation. In addition, the parents responded by saying that RWU was a “friendly and happy campus”. President Farish thanked the faculty for its greater participation in the process, which seems to be paying off.

**Provost Workman: Noted that:**

- a. Provost Workman had also received good feedback from students and parents at ASD.
- b. The new Vice President for Enrolment would like to hear from faculty directly or via the Provost's office.
- c. The registration process is being improved and some changes are taking place. Provost Workman noted that the process was harder than expected. J. Romano, the Registrar, is running training.
- d. Paper Degree Audits would be available for the advisement period.
- e. The IT review is in the process and upon completion, a summary of the consultant's findings would be circulated to the Faculty Senate
- f. Complaints from faculty about the increase in SPAM are investigated as how to handle issues, such as degree of infiltration.
- g. The Provost confirmed, upon a question from the floor, that only the instructors could add students to their courses. The Registrar has been informed of this decision.
- h. A report on Continuing Studies Committee would be provided at a later date.

**3. Report of the Executive Committee: by President Stein:**

- a. President Stein and Provost Workman discussed classroom assignment allocation and the need to resolve issues, such as disability, priorities, etc. He will work with the Provost to set up procedures and guidelines.
- b. Faculty caucus to discuss constitutional changes will be held on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, at 3PM FCAS157.
- c. The College Students on the Autism Spectrum will be held at 4:30PM today, SE115 after the Faculty Senate meeting, and there will be a report on this at the next meeting.
- d. The issues of modifications to the catalog language describing Alternatives to Classroom Study, Independent Study, Internships, Cooperative Education, External Study, and Pass/No Pass Option (three attachments) were discussed.

Discussion: Who will approve the changes? There is the need to get faculty input and Senate approval. The need to make the changes in April to make the next catalog seems rushed.

**Motion (M. Stein, M. Topf): The Senate charges the Academic Standards and Policies Committee to work on the catalog changes language with the Provost and the Registrar.**

**Motion carried with 29 in favor – 0 opposed – 1 abstention**

- e. The provost has called for faculty representation for the NEASC team task forces. There are 25 faculty roles in different areas that need to be filled by the end of March, so that they could meet in April.

Discussion: How would this be done? Senator Bosco noted that last time the members were appointed by the Provost to each group.

**Decision: It was decided that there would be a call for volunteers by President Stein who would circulate the descriptions for each standard and the number of people needed for each of them. He will follow up on the matter with the Provost.**

#### **4. Representatives Report:**

- a. Senator Topf – will report on the SCS meeting the next time as there had not been a meeting.
- b. Senator Speakman as liaison was unable to attend the last meeting as she had been teaching, and requested that she might follow up with the Provost to be briefed on the meeting. The Senate agreed to this.
- c. Provost Workman stated that the issue of changing classrooms would be reviewed, but changing classrooms should come through a formal request.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

- a. **Curriculum Committee meeting of February 26:** Senator Khan (standing in for Senator Alfieri)

Before the Senate addressed the motions, an issue regarding the FSCC Minutes of February 26, 2014 (attachment) was raised about Item **B1 – PA 364: Organization Theory, Assessment, and Change** by Senator Esons as to the process and jurisdiction of the approval process. After discussion it was decided that the matter would be taken up by the FSCC Chair and be resolved.

Later in the meeting, the following motion was made regarding the above course:

**Motion (J. Speakman, V. Sloan): The Faculty Senate approve PA 364 and override the FSCC decision**

**Motion was defeated: 7 in favor – 12 against – 8 abstentions**

It was generally felt that the current process of submission and review process needed attention – the FSCC had been charged at the last Faculty Senate meeting to look into this and will report on it in due course.

In addition, the structural issue of representation by SCS to the FSCC needs to be addressed and clarified.

Senator Platania raised some other issues about information feedback to the petitioners and the school that needed to be addressed.

**Motion (H. Khan, M. Tehrani): Faculty Senate approves the following technical changes approved by the FSCC.**

- 1) AS 2012-60 MNC Bank AMST 331 Culture and Gender
- 2) AS 2012-64 MNC Bank AMST 340: Ethnic Cultures in America
- 3) AS 2012-94 MNC PHIL 103 Change in Level and Content
- 4) AS 2012-95 MNC PHIL 203: Change in Course #
- 5) AC 2013-20 MNC PHYS 320 (formerly 220): Modern Physics
- 6) AS 2013-57 MNC DANCE 150: Change in description
- 7) AS 2013-56 MNC DANCE 200, 201: Change in title, pre-reqs and description
- 8) AS 2013-55 MNC DANCE 220, 221, 301 and 302: Change in title.
- 9) AS 2013-51 MNC DANCE 325: update credit application and description
- 10) AS 2013-50 MNC DANCE 340: Description and pre-req
- 11) AS 2013-49 MNC DANCE 390: Title and description
- 12) AS 2013-34 MNC DANCE 435: description and pre-req
- 13) AS 2013-37 MNC DANCE 460: Change Title, Pre-Req, Desc.
- 14) NEW Minor Change Submission — AAH 650 Thesis
- 15) NEW Minor Change Submission — AAH Non-thesis
- 16) NEW Minor Change Submission — HP 342
- 17) NEW Minor Change Submission —ARCH 577
- 18) NEW Minor Change Submission —ARCH 575
- 19) NEW Minor Change Submission —ARCH 325
- 20) NEW Minor Change Submission —ARCH 324
- 21) NEW Minor Change Submission — HP 631
- 22) NEW Minor Change Submission — VARTS 392
- 23) NEW Minor Change Submission — VARTS 361
- 24) NEW Minor Change Submission —VARTS BFA Program

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion: (H. Khan, M. Tehrani) Faculty Senate approves the following proposals approved by the FSCC**

- 25) NEW Course Proposal URBN 430 – Advanced Special Topics in Urban Studies
- 26) NEW Course Proposal URBN 299 – Special Topics in Urban Studies
- 27) NEW Course Proposal URBN 400 – Urban Studies Colloquium
- 28) NEW Course Proposal URBN 100 – Introduction to Urban Studies
- 29) Marketing 429 (CPC Studies)
- 30) Management 429 (CPC Studies)
- 31) International Business 429 (CPC Studies)
- 32) Finance 429 (CPC Studies)

- 33) ECON 429 (CPC Studies)
- 34) Web Development 429 (CPC Studies)
- 35) Accounting 429 (CPC Studies)

**Motion carried with 1 opposed.**

**Motion: (H. Khan, M. Tehrani) – Faculty Senate approves the following  
CORE Concentrations approved by the FSCC**

- 36) MNC AMST CC change in requirements
- 37) NEW Minor Change Core Concentration in Professional and Public  
Writing
- 38) NEW MNC to DANCE Core Concentration

**Motion carried unanimously**

**Motion: (H. Khan, J. Speakman) - Faculty Senate approves the following new  
programs approved by the FSCC (Item B5 in the FSCC minutes)**

NEW Program Urban Studies Core Concentration  
NEW Program Urban Studies Minor

Discussion: Senators felt that as the ‘paperwork’ for the above proposals had not moved through to the correct tabs in the approval process that the proposals were deemed to be incomplete.

**Motion failed to carry with 9 in favor - 18 opposed - 1 abstention.**

**b. Faculty Development (Senator Gentles-Peart)**

**Motion (K. Gentles-Peart, F. Schroth): Faculty Senate accepts the recommended  
changes to the procedures governing the Excellence in Teaching Award. (attachment).**

Discussion: Several issues were raised about the procedures governing the award. Senators were supportive in making the award substantive but felt the need for clearer criteria and metrics. It was felt The Center for Teaching and Learning would help in what might be done and for the time being, the current rules for the Award still stand.

**Motion failed to carry with 9 in favor – 13 opposed – 8 abstentions.**

**c. Diversity (Senator Leguizamo)**

**Motion (A. Leguizamo, M. Topf): The faculty senate adopts the attached agenda for the fall faculty conference (attachment).**

**Motion carried with 1 abstention.**

**d. Academic Standards and Policies (Senator Langdon)**

Senator Langdon reported on the ongoing matters related to double majors; mid-term warning grades timing (currently in discussion with the Registrar); and thesis with distinctions (that schools should manage their own process, but that the university could assist in overall coordination and archiving in the central library). These matters are under review and the committee will provide a report.

**6. Old Business**

**a. School of Continuing Studies Report (Senator Topf):**

The Senate reconstituted an ad-hoc committee on continuing studies. Provost Workman has circulated a *School of Continuing Studies Update* by Dean Scurry.

The ad hoc committee will be meeting in the near future – there is no report at this time.

**b. Interdisciplinary Programs (Senator Rhyne)**

Interschool and Interdisciplinary programs exist, but in general there is confusion between the two. There is more need for faculty input on the proposed structure.

**Motion ( A. Rhyne, J. Speakman): The Provost would convene a group to formulate policies, etc. after a call for volunteers to review the various interdisciplinary programs.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**c. Incidental Language Changes to the Constitution (Senator Stein):**

*i. Description of the Steering Committee*

**Motion (M. Stein, M. Tehrani): Amend the constitution language describing the Steering Committee from:**

5. Steering Committee

This committee will serve as faculty linkage to the University’s strategic plan.

*To:*

5. Steering Committee

This is an advisory committee to provide guidance to the Senate on matters of policy, governance and long-term objectives.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

d. **Special meeting: Second vote to approve the language (President Stein):**

**Section 11.** The Senate may also call special meetings of the entire faculty. The call to such meetings must be issued at least one week in advance and the purpose stated. The President of the Senate shall preside at said meetings.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

## 7. New Business

a. **Motion (V. Sloan, S. Espinosa): Electronic communication of faculty should be conducted through g.rwu.edu, and faculty should be issued account for this service.**

Discussion: In clarifying why the change is being called for, it seems that there is a need for a unified main system that does not require the use of personal space for university business, etc. There is also a need for a student address book and easy access to whatever system is put into place.

**Motioned was tabled by a unanimous vote.**

Senators Sloan and Rhyne will discuss and bring a proposal to the Faculty Senate at a later date.

b. **Motion (Speakman) The Faculty Senate urges the Provost to enforce the requirement that no one other than the instructor of record can add a student to a class after the add-drop period.**

**Motion withdrawn** (as the matter has already been resolved as under Item 2, Provost)

c. **Motion (L. Turner, M. Tehrani): Charge the University Life Committee to develop a set of policies for allowing seniors to apply for and use the Provost's Fund for Student Research for travel to professional conferences that take place after they have graduated, provided the work was completed while a student at RWU.**

**Motion carried with 1 abstention.**

- d. Motion (T. Hollingsworth, M Topf): The chair of the FSCC shall report back directly to the respective school and petitioner whenever there are any issues to be resolved in the curriculum approval process.**

**Motion carried with 3 opposed and 2 abstentions. :**

- e. Motion (A. Rhyne, M. Topf): Faculty Senate to charge the Academic Standards Committee to consider the diploma language for Double Majors and Dual Degrees (one or two diplomas)**

**Motion was tabled unanimously.**

- f. Motion (A. Rhyne): To revise the current process in which students can walk at graduation with two outstanding courses.**

**Motion was not discussed and withdrawn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Submitted Respectfully  
Minoos Tehrani  
3/17/2014