

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

Present: P. Alfieri, B. Celik, J. Campbell, C. Carrington, P. Charles, C. Menton, 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, J. Roberts, A. Rhyne, , M. Sawoski, F. Schroth, V. Sloan, J. Speakman, M. Stein, M. Tehrani, M. Topf, L. Turner, Y. Warnapala, M. Wu

Absent: S. Bosco, J. Coon, L. Rossi, A. Shelton

Guests: President Farish, Provost Workman, Vice President for Enrollment Management Capolupo

Items on the agenda:

1. **Approval of minutes of March 5, 2014** (P. Alfieri, A. Espinosa). Minutes were approved with a change: Removing of Senator Topf's name from item 6 (a).

2. President Farish

President Farish: This weekend will be the last big push for accepted students. We have doubled our deposit since last Senate meeting. Law School enrollment is up by 50% comparing to this time last year.

RWU is looking for a Chief Diversity Officer. There will be three administration appointed faculty and three senators on the search committee along with some others. Faculty Senate can provide three names to the President. It is a new position and the search will start as soon as the committee is in place.

3. Provost Workman

Provost Workman: Admission is doing fine. Faculty and administration have done a great job of sending the same message and as a result, we have a lot more students that have signed up.

There has been no complaints regarding the new registration system, which is good news.

A summary of IT review report will be out very soon. Suzanne Barnes, Chief Information Officer, has left and S. King is in the interim position. A national search will soon be underway.

There will be a report on the Continuing Studies soon.

Items by senators: Considering that we now have SAT score as an option, we need to devise a system for placement of freshman students in writing classes. In addition, the lack of English proficiency of some international students is a major concern.

VP Capolupo: We are looking at these issues. We are working on the placement exam for English since SAT is optional now. In addition, we are working with the ESL Center and are considering TOEFL as a way to determine the appropriate level of English proficiency for international students.

Items by senators:

- a) What about the international students who are already enrolled in classes and their English proficiency is not adequate?
- b) Why not assign international faculty to work with international students?
- c) International students should be integrated into the main campus housing. Why Saudi students are all housed in Providence area?
- d) We need closer mentoring for international students.
- e) Students with poor English need extra support.
- f) The housing masters need to mentor international students.

Provost Workman: We are looking at all these issues.

4. Report of Executive Committee

- a. Meeting with President and Provost on March 20th.

President Stein reviewed the Executive Committee report. Senator Speakman as an author of that report expresses her understanding that her contribution would be open to the faculty community.

Provost Workman: The report on online education will be out soon. Provost Workman wishes to draft a response to accompany the report before distribution.

- b. Faculty Caucus to discuss constitutional changes Wednesday, March 19th, 3PM FCAS157.

President Stein: Only eight faculty came to the meeting. Can we do an electronic vote?

Senator Roberts: The Senate Constitution explicitly requires vote in person for any changes to the constitution.

Motion (J. Roberts, M. Tehrani): The proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution be ratified at the Faculty Caucus in August.

Discussion:

- a) Do we need to think about a special electronic forum for official communication?
- b) Collecting votes electronically is not an easy task.
- c) Interaction and discussions can take place in the Faculty Caucus that is not possible online.

- d) Motions approved by the full faculty at a caucus with quorum present are binding to the senate. The full faculty approved by large majority the plan to draft a new constitution, circulate this draft by December 21st, hold a caucus in March and submit the final draft to the faculty for approval by March 21st,

Motion carried with 1 abstention.

- c. Faculty representation on NEASC teams
President Stein stated that Senator Speakman has volunteered but was not listed because of her willingness to serve on a number of task forces. Three emails have been sent out asking for volunteers for completing the committee. We need seven more volunteers.

5. Representative Report

- a. Senator Speakman - February 18 meeting of the Board of Trustees' Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee.

Senator Speakman: Will provide the report soon.

- b. Senator Espinosa – Dean's council report was circulated with the meeting materials. No questions on the report from Dean's Council were raised.

6. Committee reports

- a. Elections Committee (Roberts, Gentles-Peart, Rhyne)

Senator Roberts: Honors Advisory Council has now members from SS, WT, Math, GSB, and SHAAP. This committee is not a Senate committee, but the Senate was asked to conduct the election.

President Stein: The Election Committee is charged to conduct the election of the Senate as soon as possible. The number of at-large members of the Senate is five. During the Senate organizational Meeting, the members of different committee of the Senate will be elected.

- b. Curriculum (Alfieri)

Motion (P. Alfieri, M. Tehrani) Call for expedited procedures for final approval of curriculum changes prior to the May meeting.

Discussion: As soon as the minutes are out, the approved curricular motions to be forwarded to the Provost office and considered approved by the senate.

This is a one-time fix, and senate should consider a more comprehensive solution, as the month delay waiting on minute approval seems unwarranted for curricular changes.

Motion carried with 24 in favor, no opposition and 3 abstentions.

Motion (P. Alfieri, H. Khan): Faculty Senate approves the following program changes approved by the FSCC:

Engineering Biomechanics Focus
SJS Cybersecurity Cert Graduate
SJS Cyber specialist Certificate Graduate
SJS Cybersecurity MS Major changes to program
SJS CJS 428 Pre-Req. Change
AR Urban Studies Minor

Motion carried with 1 abstention.

Motion (P. Alfieri, A. Leguizamo): Faculty Senate approves the following new course proposals approved by the FSCC:

NC BIO 333
NC BIO 363
NC THEAT 122
SB - NC ACCTG 411

Motion carried with 1 abstention.

Motion (P. Alfieri, J. Roberts): Faculty Senate approves the following minor changes in courses and requirements proposals approved by the FSCC:

AS – Bio M BIO req change
AR - MA in AAH 605
AR - MA in AAH New Reqs
SJS CJ 428
AS – POLSC 362
AS- SOC 348
AS- Math 221

Motion carried with 1 abstention.

Motion (P. Alfieri, A. Leguizamo): Faculty Senate approves the following core concentration requests for changes approved by the FSCC:

CC Urban Studies
CC-NP- Educational Studies Core Concentration

Motion carried with 1 abstention.

- c. **University Life (Roberts):** Senator Roberts reviewed the recommendation of the committee for the Provost grant for UG research as depicted in the report resolving the gap issue between the grant period and the graduating students.
- d. **Academic Standards and Policies (Langdon)**
 - i. **Several catalog corrections were proposed:**

- a) “Alternatives to Classroom Studies”: To delete the line from explanation under: “Alternatives to Classroom Studies”
 - 1) **To add the line:** *University sponsored studies aboard programs do not count toward 15 credit hour limit.*
- ii. Under “Internships”: To delete the last sentence “*Interested students should consult their dean*” and replace with “*Interested students to consult with their advisor.*”

Under Pass/No Pass Option: Motion (T. Langdon, V. Sloan): To adopt the changes to Pass/No Pass Option as: *Courses required for the student’s major(s), minor(s), and University Core Curriculum courses may not be taken on a P/NP basis.* Motion carried with 27 in favor.

Discussion: There were arguments for and against including minors in the P/NP policy. The friendly amendment to cross the word minor was rejected.

Motion (M. Sawoski, M. Tehrani): To strike the word minor out.

Motion carried with 15 in favor, 10 opposed and 1 abstention.

Motion (M. Sawoski, T. Hollingsworth): The students be allowed to take one course on a P/NP basis for their minor.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (T. Langdon, V. Sloan): The senate endorses the Academic Standards and Policies Committee recommended changes to catalog language as-amended.

Motion carried with 27 in favor.

- iii. **Motion (A. Rhyne, M. Topf):** *The senate requests the following policy governing participation in commencement: Students will have satisfied all graduation requirements by Commencement; or they have no more than two remaining courses including incompletes. If a student has one or two remaining courses, and wishes to participate in Commencement, they must do the following:*

- a) *Petition the university (current senate subcommittee) Academic Standards and Policy committee by Nov. 15 of their graduation year;*
- b) *Provide a description of reasons why they are petitioning and provide a plan for remediation;*
- c) *The committee will review the petition and hold a hearing in which the student must appear;*
- d) *The committee will approve or reject the petition based on evidence and/or presented by students.*

Discussion: Senator Rhyne stated the policies for participating in the Commencement spelled out in the catalog are not followed and as a result, the above motion was drafted.

Senators: Nov 15 deadline cannot be met due to several reasons (e.g., the schedule of courses for future semester may not be out by then). Just enforce the rules that are in the catalog.

Commencement does not mean students have their degree in hand. We do not know how big of a problem this is. We need to get the extent of the problem.

The motion was tabled unanimously.

Senator Rhyne requested that the Provost Office provide an annual report of all students for the past couple of years whom have participated in Commencement but failed to graduate.

Provost Workman: Will provide the data.

8) New Business

- a) *Motion (J. Speakman, L. Turner) The Faculty Senate recommends to the Provost that students with double majors be assigned an advisor in each major.*

Discussion:

- 1) What happens with the hold with two advisors?
- 2) Problems that can arise by assigning two advisors outweigh its benefit.
- 3) One advisor should be able to advise two majors.
- 4) Technically, it is difficult to implement.
- 5) What happens when two faculty advisors disagree?
- 6) There may be contractual issues.

Motion failed to carry with 9 in favor, 11 opposed, and 5 abstentions.

- b) *Motion (J. Campbell, M. Tehrani): The senate asks that HR to create, maintain, and make easily accessible a full and current list of all adjunct faculty and assign them RWU emails. Motion carried unanimously.*

Provost Workman: Current list of adjunct faculty and emails will be provided.

Motion carried unanimously.

- c) *Motion (J. Campbell, J. Speakman): The senate requests the Provost solicit broad faculty consultation about the priorities and staffing of the proposed Center for teaching and Learning. Motion carried unanimously.*

Provost Workman: Yes, it will be done.

- d) Senator Leguizamo asked how many faculty members are needed for the Diversity Officer Search Committee.

President Farish: The Senate is to provide three names from the Senate. There will be three more faculty, altogether six faculty members along with other members.

Nomination from the floor: Senators P. Alfieri, A. Leguizamo, and B. Celik were nominated and elected unanimously.

Senator Esons asked if the nomination could be opened to include a female senator. Senator Alfieri withdrew and Senator Gentles-Peart was elected in his place.

- e) Senator Speakman: The tradition of going round the table and assigning chairs and members to different committees of the Senate should be modified. A motion will be set forth during the May meeting of the Senate.

Discussion: President Stein noted that no action of this senate will be binding on the process the next senate uses to select its officers, however the senate may direct the current president to make recommendations to the next senate.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Submitted respectfully,
Minoo Tehrani
April 4, 2014