

MINUTES
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
May 7, 2014
Library Seminar Room - 2:00 PM

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

Absent: S. Esons, G. Graham, D. Reynolds, A. Shelton, V. Sloan

1. **Guests:** President Farish, Provost Workman, Vice President Capolupo
2. Approval of minutes of April 2, 2014 (J. Speakman, M. Topf). Approved with one abstention.
3. **President Farish:**
 - a. Dr. Farish: The work will continue with Gen Ed Committee report.
 - b. Vice President Capolupo will report on enrollment. We asked our consultant to provide a report on the impact of “Affordable Excellence”. At this time, we are \$5,000 surplus on our budget of \$600,000,000 and have 27% more freshman than last year. However, we need to wait for the summer melt. Last year, we lost 126 students during the summer melt. Competition will go after students who are not committed yet and offer more funds.
 - c. Emergency response plan is revised and will be presented to the Board of Trustees and will be shared with the faculty in fall. We have done complete revamping of the plan including utilization of new technologies.
 - d. Very pleased with commencement activities and involvement of faculty and students in these activities.
 - e. There will be a ceremony to thank the faculty and staff that have donated to RWU on Thursday (5/8). Fifty percent of faculty and staff have been donors.

Question: Senator Speakman asked about the new director for Outreach & Engagement and if this position was different from the director of career services.

President Farish: This is a different position and it is not housed in the Career Services Department. The director will be a liaison between RWU and business community to enhance the connection to the businesses.

4. **Provost Workman:**

- a. Based on the feedback from the parents of students, accepted students days are very successful due to a combination of hard work by faculty and administration.
- b. Very impressed with the Gen Ed Committee report and looking forward to its implementation.
- c. The library space changes are completed.
- d. All the candidates for all positions are interviewed by the Provost and the final decision is made by the Provost. A list of the new positions and people hired for these positions was shared with the Senate.

Question: President Stein asked if there was a total change in the number of faculty.

Provost Workman: One extra faculty.

5. **Vice President Capolupo:**

- a. Explained the makeup of the new students entering RWU. The number of transfer students has decreased since universities offer more funds to keep the students from transferring. There is a projected 8%-10%, around 14-150 students, melt during the summer. RWU competitors are 2%-8% behind in deposits and they will offer better financial packages.
- b. The profile of the freshman class is good with higher SAT since the option of no SAT was late in its introduction, so majority of students have the SAT scores reported.
- c. The faculty and deans spent 970 hours in support of the activities of the Admission Office.

Question: VP Tehrani asked if RWU had a new Dean of Admission.

Vice President Capolupo: Not yet. There were four candidates invited to campus. One more candidate will be invited to campus.

6. **Report of Executive Committee:**

- a. President Stein acknowledged and thanked the departing senators. President Stein will not be on the Senate next year. VP Tehrani stated that she stepped down after 8 years and three years as the VP. Her replacement is Kathy Micken and with her experience and passion, she will be a benefit to the Senate. VP Sloan will be on sabbatical next semester.

b. **Meeting with President and Provost on April 17th:**

Discussion: There was clarification as to the writing placement versus international students. The report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee had to do with the writing placement due to the absence of SAT score and not about English competency of international students.

There was a question as to the graduation plan provided by all graduating students. Provost Workman emphasized that all students need to fill out a plan for graduation. Provost

Workman will provide a report as to the number of students who walk with six credits left and as to the status of their graduation.

7. Representative Report

- a. Senator Speakman - February 18 meeting of the Board of Trustees' Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee: Will provide the report
- b. Senator Esons - Board of Trustees' Recruitment, Retention and Student Life Committee: Report was provided
- c. Senator Topf - Board of Trustees' Academic Affairs Committee: The Committee met yesterday and a report will be provided.
- d. Dean's Council – Senator Espinosa: A report was provided. There will be one more meeting.

Motion (J. Campbell, M. Topf): To change the order of the agenda and consider item 9c now.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion (J. Campbell, S. Bosco): The senate adopts the priorities for the Center for Teaching and Learning as outlined in the attached document (attachment) and urges the provost to adopt these priorities as well. The Senate directs the Executive Committee to seek a written response from the outlining CTL priorities.

Discussion: Senator Tehrani referred to the attached documents, and asked if the training would be on a voluntary basis and based upon faculty's request for help. Senator Campbell indicated that she did not have a fully articulated vision of what the center should be - the list presented is what she would like to make sure is incorporated into the center.

Provost Workman: Agreed with all of Senator Campbell's comments and that would create a committee to look into it in the fall.

Motion carried unanimously

8. Committee reports

- a. Elections Committee (Senators Roberts, Gentles-Peart, Rhyne)
Senator Roberts reported that almost everything is done for the upcoming senate with the exception of two units, but will have something in the next week or so. This past year the committee has completed 60-70 elections.

Discussion: There are faculty who are willing to be elected to the Senate, but there are a number of classes held on Wednesday afternoons. A major problem is the two-year senate term. The question was that whether the senate would entertain the idea that there might be two people from a given school who could represent one senate seat - this would ease up internal scheduling problems and permit more people to participate in the senate. Senator

Speakman indicated that this would require a change in the Senate constitution, and suggested that faculty members should tell the dean that they could not teach on Wednesday afternoons. The comment was that not having classes on Wednesday afternoons was not possible with all schools. Senator Speakman suggested that the senate recommend to the Provost that we have a common meeting time when classes are not scheduled. President Stein indicated that this discussion would be appropriate for the September Senate meeting.

b. **General Education Committee** (Dr. VanSchepen) :

Dr. VanSchepen distributed sheet suggesting Senate action (attached).

Motion (R. Van Schepen, S. Bosco): To approve the Gen Ed mission statement.

Discussion:

Question: Was there a methodology for the synthesis?

Answer: Dr. VanSchepen indicated that the proposal is not down to the level of what we want the student to achieve.

Question: Was the mission statement reflected broad consensus of the committee itself?

Answer: Dr. VanSchepen indicated that the committee approved the mission statement.

Questions: Was that the mission statement represents the plurality of the committee? Was this mission statement for the entire general education program?

Answer: Dr. VanSchepen indicated that this was so.

Question: What is the mechanism for assessing the outcomes?

Answer: Dr. VanSchepen explained that the assessment mechanisms would be related to the learning outcomes.

Motion carried with 4 abstentions.

Motion: (R. VanSchepen, C. Menton): To endorse the objectives developed by Gen Ed Committee

Discussion: Regarding the terminology, "discourse communities", it is term of art in writing studies and it was suggested using a different term that was more common parlance. Would like to see the term remain, but have a definition built into it. The language should express more than knowledge (e.g., value, understanding).

Dr. VanSchepen suggested approving the outcome areas, reserving the specific language for later refinement. Senator Tehrani indicated it was not appropriate to approve a motion where the language could be changed later.

Motion: (J. Roberts, M. Sawoski): To table the motion and ask the Gen Ed committee to think about the language and get broader buy-in, perhaps with a survey to faculty, so they can come back in the fall with very clear learning outcomes.

Dr. VanSchepen stated that these objectives were derived from the faculty involvement in the fall 2013 faculty conference.

Motion carried with 12 in favor, 10 opposed.

Motion: (R. Van Schepen, M. Topf): To form a new committee to combine the Gen Ed and CCC Committee.

Discussion: The question was if the two committees would go away, and a new committee will emerge. Not supporting this motion since the motion turns this function into an administrative position. Being uncomfortable with this motion since the senate tabled the learning objectives and dissolving the committees when there is no clarity of vision is not prudent. Faculty must have involvement in shepherding this process as it is emerging, and we need a continuing committee to be able to do that. All of this work in the last hour of the last senate meeting of the semester is problematic, suggesting that after discussing it for several months, perhaps then the dissolution of the committees would be appropriate.

We need to make some recommendation to move forward, and there needs to be a governmental structure that provides resources for this purpose, since we are asking people to do this with no compensation. At some point, we have to decide if we want this to move forward and if the university wants a good general education program, then there has to be financial and time compensation for those charged with creating that reality.

Being uncomfortable with having only the chairs on the committee, perhaps a smaller committee would be most beneficial.

President Stein suggested the senate should not disband the previous committees without forming a new committee.

Senator Speakman suggested that it was time to move this along, and recommended the senate create a working group which would work over the summer to hammer out the specifics while the core committees remains in place, indicating that if the senate defeats this she is not sure what the core committee is supposed to do.

The Provost agreed with Senator Speakman and said that not everybody will be happy with the language, but he wants to set up a structure and support people to do this kind of work.

Motion carried with 26 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

Motion: (J. Speakman, A. Leguizamo): To charge the elections committee to poll the faculty for self-nominations for 5 representatives for the working group.

Discussion: Senator Roberts suggests an amendment to the motion to include the existing chair of core curriculum and general education committees. Senator Speakman said she thought this was understood. The question was posed as to how many faculty would be appropriate. Dr. VanScheper indicated that 4 or 5 would be fine. Senator Hollingsworth asked if the committee would include a representative from the Office of Academic Affairs. Senator Speakman indicated her motion dealt with faculty representation, not administrative representation.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: (R. VanScheper, C. Menton): The Senate to approve the report of his committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Curriculum (Alfieri) :

Motion (P. Alfieri, J. Roberts): To approve the following proposals.

i. **The following proposal was untabled and approved 8-0-1**

AS 2013-43 NP: Performing Arts Major

ii. **New major/minor proposals**

NEW Minor Change – CORE 104 Course Name (Approved 8-0-0)

AS 2014-17 MNC MUSIC 313: Change in Title, Desc (Approved 8-0-0)

AS 2014-18 MNC MUSIC 312: Change in Title, Desc (Approved 8-0-0)

AS 2014-20 MNC MUSIC 310: Change in Title, Desc, Pre-reqs (Approved 8-0-0)

AS 2014-14 MNC ENG 300: Change in Title, Desc (Approved 8-0-0)

AS 2014-13 BIO 370 Virology: Change in semester offering (Approved 8-0-0)

iii. **The following NEW Minor Change Submission proposals were untabled.**

AR- MNC —AAH Catalog copy (language) (Approved 8-0-1)

AR – MNC – AAH 569 – Req'd hours reduced (Approved 8-0-1)

AR – NC —HP 669 Capstone Project (Approved 8-0-1)

iv. **Core Concentrations requests for changes**

CC Marine Biology (Approved 9-0-0)

CC Physics (Approved 9-0-0)

Motion carried with 1 abstention.

Motion: (P. Alfieri, F. Schroth): The Senate to approve two courses approved by eballot, and three courses still waiting on the eballot (as handed out in the meeting).

Motion carried with 1 abstention.

Motion (P. Alfieri, J. Roberts):The FSCC respectively request that the senate approve its May minutes relative to curriculum, so all curricula items would be approved and thus not be held in escrow for four months.

Motion carried with 1 abstention.

d. Faculty Development (Senator Gentles-Peart)—No motions

- e. University Life (Senator Roberts)

Motion (J. Roberts, S. Bosco): The Senate requests that the administration accept the Chairperson of the University Life Committee of the Faculty Senate, or the Chairperson's designee, as a voting member of the Provost's Committee for Student Research Funding Committee. The second faculty member of this committee should be selected by the Senate Elections Committee from the faculty at large by October 1st.

Motion carried with 1 abstention.

Senator Roberts, on behalf of the University Life Committee, gave a report to the senate on procedures for Student Research funding.

- f. Academic Standards and Policies (Senator Langdon)- No motions
- g. Diversity (Senator Leguizamo)—No motions

8) Old Business

9) New Business

- a) **Motion** (J. Speakman): The Faculty Senate requests that the Administration clarify the procedures in place for emergency situations that may arise on campus.
- b) **Motion** (J. Speakman) Assignment to Faculty Senate Committee shall be made by the Executive Committee based on written requests from Senators.

Senator Speakman suggested that the motions she proposed under New Business be tabled for the next senate meeting.

Senator Speakman stated that the Senate record should express the Senate's thanks to the outgoing Executive Committee (Senators Stein, Tehrani, and Sloan) for their service.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Submitted Respectfully

Minoos Tehrani

5/7/2014