

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
Minutes  
December 3, 2014

In attendance: Sens. Bosco, Campbell, Carrington-Farmer, Celik, Coon, , Espinosa, Gentles-Peart, Ghanem, Graham, Hollingsworth, , Langdon, Leguizamo, Menton, Micken, Noussi Kamdem, O’Connell, Platania, Reynolds, Rhyne, Roberts, Rossi, Sawoski, Schroth, Speakman, Spritz, Topf, Tsankova, , Warnapala, Wu.

Absent: Sens. Dermody, Johnson, Roberts, Stein, Turner

Guests: Pres. Farish, Provost Workman,

**(1) Motion to accept November 5, 2014 minutes as presented. (O’Connell, Celik)**

**Passed without objection.**

**(2) Committee minutes**

Acknowledge receipt of minutes from:

- Faculty Development Committee—Nov. 10
- Steering Committee—Nov. 21
- Academic Standards and Politics—Nov. 20
- Deans Council—Nov. 18
- AEC—Nov 24
- Curriculum Committee—Nov. 19

**Discussion:** The **Steering Committee**’s minutes contain a request that the Senate clarify the status of the recommendations regarding the Senate constitution and by-laws that are contained in the Steering Committee’s minutes of 10/4/13 and were given first reading by the Senate on 11/6/13. Pres. Topf noted that these recommendations should have been placed before the full faculty in September. He will develop new documents that reflect these changes for consideration by the Senate on 2/4/15.

The **Admissions and Enrollment Committee** minutes contained some characterizations of faculty involvement in first-year summer advising. Members of the faculty of the professional schools noted that they have been excluded from advising in the summer by their deans, despite their willingness to participate. Provost Workman noted that the orientation process is undergoing review.

**(3) Report from the executive committee.**

Meeting with President Farish and Provost Workman on 12/9 focused on

- Faculty led study abroad programs: Bob Cole is looking at methods for calculating “engaged learning time.”

- Regarding SCS, there are now three program directors: Profs. Menton, Swiczewicz and Norvell
  
- Regarding the statement adopted by the Senate concerning student appeals of professors' action to administration—the default position is with the faculty, but reasonable inquiries are required if students and/or parents raise questions.

Policy regarding selection of faculty members to certain committees. From time to time the administration seeks a faculty member to serve on special committees. Recent examples are a Career Center advisory group, the Technology Council, and a committee addressing athletic concussion issues in the context of Title IX. When the request for nomination results in a very small number, rather than the Elections Committee proceeding with a faculty-wide election, the executive committee will make the selection and announce it to the Senate.

**Motion (Speakman, Rhyne): to suspend discussion of this issue pending consideration of a motion on the matter later in the meeting. Passed without objection.**

#### **(4) Remarks from President Farish and Provost Workman**

President Farish:

- The shared governance process is working very well for the Vision Project
- Gov. Raimondo will be meeting with all RI college presidents shortly
- RWU in Providence will be relocating in June 2016 to 1 Empire Plaza
- Agenda in Congress is to balance budget in 2020 by cutting Pell grants and student loans
- Dr. Farish will deliver keynote at a national meeting in June regarding how to stem the tide of criticism of higher ed
- RWU was mentioned in the NYT on December 2

Provost Workman:

- Lots of congruence re value statements in the Vision Project
- Note the changes in the layout of the library
- Champlin Grant for “instant theatre” in Mary Tefft White room
- Personnel Changes
  - Jamie Scurry: from Interim Dean to Dean of SCS
  - Bob Cole: promoted to Vice Provost
- Reorganization in CAS Associate Dean structure
  - Assoc Dean for Academic Affairs: Roberta Adams
  - Assoc Dean for Budgeting and Planning: will be a search

- Dr. Frank Eyetsemitan will become a member of the Psychology faculty
- Assoc Dean of General Education: search underway: three internal candidates
  - Chief Information Officer will be hired shortly

**(5) MOTION (Rhyne, O’Connell) to charge Academic Standards Committee to review policies and procedures regarding medical leave notices to instructors and advisors about students who are on leave. The committee shall report back with findings and, if any, recommendations.**

Sen. Rhyne would like more complete information about student’s status to be shared with advisers. Provost Workman replied that more information will be provided.

**Passed without objection.**

**(6) MOTION Topf, O’Connell) The Faculty Senate recommends that the committee reviewing the Exit Interview Protocol include one faculty member.**

Discussion ensued about the difference between the graduation survey and the Exit Interview protocol. This motion applies to the latter, which is administered when students withdraw from the university. The instrument is under review by a committee chaired by Bob Cole. The Provost agrees to add a faculty member.

Chair Ghanem reported that Vice Provost Cole and Director of Institutional Research Akin are attempting to review and then centralize all internal surveys. A senator noted that we have no access to any of these results including the exit surveys. She also asked if this centralization will stop the process of deans conducting their own exit interviews. Chair Ghanem reported that his committee has requested the results of the exit surveys.

**Passed without objection.**

**(7) MOTION (Celik, Ghanem) that the Senate adopt the following provisions regarding the Excellence in Teaching award:**

**(A) At the commencement ceremony, the previous year’s recipient of the award shall announce the current the current year’s recipient. Both recipients shall be included in the platform party.**

**(B) A monetary award of \$1000 shall be granted to award recipients beginning 2015.**

**(C) The recipient of the award shall be announced to all university prior to the commencement ceremony.**

Discussion: Provost Workman noted that there is already a \$1000 award accompanying this distinction. President and Provost agreed with the other provisions. Allison Chase Padula, who coordinates commencement, will be informed.

**Passed without objection.**

**(8) MOTION** (Topf, Menton) The Faculty Senate requests that the faculty be given opportunity to evaluate their respective deans by confidential electronic survey similar to the survey recently undertaken regarding the Provost; and that such a survey be undertaken once every ~~two~~ *three*\* years.

Pres. Topf noted that there is no history of asking faculty for input regarding their deans. Pres. Farish is open to the idea, but remarked that every two years is too frequent. First evaluation should come after two years, and then every four years thereafter. The process will be staggered to ensure that not all deans are under consideration at once. The survey would be followed by conversation with supervisor to address issues and support strengths.

\*Motion was amended to read every “three” years instead of “two”

**Passed without objection.**

(9) Discussion of Executive Committee proposal to have the Executive Committee make appointments to committees at its discretion and to refer all other matters to the Elections Committee. Discussion focused on pros and cons of elections vs. appointments. No motion was offered.

**(10)** Standing committee reports and updates.

Curriculum Committee:

Motion to adopt the following recommendations from the FSCC (Hollingsworth, Sawoski)

AS 2013-40 NP: Applied Mathematics—new program

2013-89 MNC Music 310—minor change

2013-62 Urban Ecology—new course

AS 2014-45—cross list Anth270 with PH 270

AS 2014-33 Screen Writing

AS 2014-05 Add elective to BS in Biology

AS-2013-62 (changed from 63) New Course [no title provided in FSCC minutes]

**Motion: (Hollingsworth, Espinosa) Regarding Course Obsolescence**

**1. Courses which have not been offered in five years will result in a notice being sent to the department head and/or dean of the unit which hosts the course indicating the course will be made inactive unless some other action is desired and presented to FSCC prior to the final meeting of the academic year.**

**2. Courses that have been inactive for a period of two years will result in a notice being sent to the department head and/or dean indicating the courses shall be banked unless some other action is desired and presented to FSCC prior to the final meeting of the academic year.**

**3. Notices to department heads and/or deans (with copy to FSCC) shall be generated by the registrar and submitted by 1 November of each academic year.**

**4. Action notices from department heads and/or deans should be received no later than 1-April of each academic year.**

Lengthy discussion ensued about who would be sending these notices, and would be approving these actions. Consensus was that FSCC should clarify the procedures and return to Senate for further discussion and action. **Motion to Table Passed 13-9.**

11/30/14