

**ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

Minutes
SEPTEMBER 3, 2014

In attendance: Sens. Campbell, Celik, Coon, Dermody, Espinosa, Gentles-Peart, Ghanem, Graham, Hollingsworth, Johnson, Langdon, Leguizamo, Menton, Micken, Noussi Kamdem, O'Connell, Platania, Reynolds, Rhyne, Roberts, Rossi, Sawoski, Speakman, Topf, Tsankova, Turner, Warnapala, Wu.

Absent: Sens. Bosco, Carrington-Farmer, Schroth

Guests: Pres. Farish, Provost Workman, Prof. J. Stevens

(1) Executive Committee report (Topf).

a) Senate policies and processes for the coming term:

- Populating Senate Committees—VP Rhyne will be contacting Senators to confirm assignments and assisting chairs in filling vacancies
- Committee Chairs should post agendas and minutes on Senate website
- The agenda gives priority to motions, although any member can offer a motion at any time
- Anonymous motions are not in order
- A secret ballot can be requested for any vote at the request of a single member
- If a member “calls the question,” an immediate vote to end debate occurs, requiring 2/3 majority for passage. If passed, the motion on the floor moves to vote; if not passed, debate continues on the motion on the floor.
- “Motion to table” gets an immediate vote, required a simple majority. If passed, the motion on the floor is tabled until there is a motion to untable.

b) Status of Constitutional Amendments:

Amendments that had been given two readings last year were not voted on at the spring general meeting due to lack of quorum. They were not addressed at the fall full meeting and will be brought up again at the spring general meeting.

(2) Reports from President Farish and Provost Workman.

a) Pres. Farish:

- noted that RWU first-year enrollments are above target, unlike at many RWU peer institutions. Other schools will begin to copy RWU's model of affordable excellence.
- announced his Vision Project to be launched on 9/10. Committees in each school and working groups in administrative units, along with two oversight committees (one chaired by the Provost and a board member, the other chaired by the president and a board member) will work on developing RWU's vision, values and mission. Four faculty members will

serve on the latter two committees. Meetings in the schools and administrative units will begin on 9/26. The purpose is to ensure that there is university-wide consensus on the university's direction. By spring, there will be a draft "consensus statement" of values and mission. All faculty members are eligible to participate regardless of rank and tenure. The Senate will devise a process for sending 14 names to the president from which he will select eight (four for each of the two oversight committees).

b) Provost Workman:

- thanked the Diversity Committee for its contributions to the Fall Conference, and
- announced that Curricunet is being tested now and will be rolled out in a week or so;
- and that the Center for Student Academic Success (C-SAS) is moving along. The search for a director failed. There is an individual with experience in this area coming on for 3 days/week through December as a new search proceeds. The problem with the search may have the position title. It is being reworked—possibly Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning, or Dean?
- Mapworks, which is a tracking system for new students, is in place. Training is ongoing. Questions were raised about who has access to what kinds of information and if there will be training; and
- rCloud—implementation in SAAHP, SECCM and Library. In response to question about students' difficulties with file-saving in the cloud, that students need to know the rule: "Don't be dumb; use a thumb." Capacity issues remain. Search for new CIO is underway.
- SED has moved to the Law School. Open House on 10/9.
- First Floor Library—Collaborative Learning Spaces, new Service Desk for IT issues staffed by RWU personnel, not a contractor. Mary Tefft White will be moved, space will be more theatre-like
- Bob Cole has been assigned to oversight of Global Studies and international students, with the goal of providing better support for the latter.
- Gen Ed—a new governance structure is coming.

(3) Motion (O'Connell, Micken) The Faculty Senate congratulates Prof. Deborah Robinson on winning the Excellence in Teaching Award. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

(4) Motion (Espinosa, Leguizamo) The Faculty Senate expresses its thanks to the General Education Committee and the Core Committee for their work on revising General Education over the last three years. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

(5) Motion (Speakman, Leguizamo) The Faculty Senate charges the Elections Committee with the elections of faculty liaisons to certain committees of the Board of Trustees. (Candidates must be tenured full professors.) Passed by unanimous voice vote.

The Committees are:

- (A) Academic Affairs Committee—current rep is Topf
- (B) Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee—current rep is Speakman
- (C) Recruitment, Retention and Student Life Committee—current rep is Esons

The Elections Committee members are Sens. O’Connell, Micken and Roberts.

(6) MOTION (Graham, Celik) The Faculty Senate charges the Elections Committee with selecting fourteen faculty members as nominees for two committees for President Farish’s Vision Project. From the fourteen nominees, the President will select four to serve on the Project’s Steering Committee (to be chaired by the President and a trustee), and the Provost will select four to serve on the Academic Oversight Committee (chaired by the Provost and a trustee). (Motion by request of President Farish.) Passed by unanimous voice vote.

(7) MOTION (carried over from meeting of Feb. 12) (O’Connell, Espinosa) The Faculty Senate Charges the Academic Standards and Policies Committee with recommending university-wide policies and procedures for awarding Thesis with Distinction. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion focused on how this was done in the past, including last year. It appears that there is a variety of approaches.

(8) REPORT from the General Education Working Group. (Item is pursuant to Senate action last May.) Prof. Jennifer Stevens, reporting.

Prof Stevens presented a side-by-side comparison of the Gen Ed Committee’s recommendations, the Provost’s proposal and the Gen Ed Working Group’s proposals. She said that unforeseen circumstances prevented the Working Group from completing its work in the summer, and that the group expects to have a proposal for the Senate’s consideration by October. Of note is the proposal to create a full-time administrative position at the Associate Dean level that would be filled by a faculty member, as well as the creation of a Curriculum Committee that would both process curriculum and contemplate revisions of RWU Gen Ed. The CC would report to the FSCC.

Provost Workman added that he would like to have the structure up and running by January and that the proposal gives administrative support for what we have now, and a mechanism for changing what we have. The administrative structure can and will change as the program changes.

(9) MOTION (Micken, Celik) The Faculty Senate charges the Steering Committee with regularly reviewing the syllabus guidelines issued by the Provost and to make recommendations for changes as needed. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Provost Workman commented that he welcomes Senate input and hopes that these kinds of documents will eventually reside in the Center for Teaching and Learning.

(10) MOTION (Micken, Leguizamo) The Faculty Senate charges the Academic Standards and Policies Committee to investigate and report back to the Senate on the following:

(A) The number and distribution (broken down by penalty and by division) of Academic Breaches filed by faculty during the last two academic years.

(B) The number of appeals at each level (committee; Provost), and the final outcomes of the appeals at the respective levels.

(C) Review of current catalog language regarding academic integrity; recommendations to strengthen academic integrity at RWU, and to increase instructors' knowledge of relevant procedures.

Passed without objection, by voice vote. One abstention.

This issue emerges from questions raised about how violations of academic integrity are handled. Improved information flow would help with knowledge of serial offenders. This is not about suspension for low grades, but about breaches of academic integrity. Sen. Dermody pointed out that there is a University Academic Conduct Committee that hears appeals from students regarding professors' charges. Catalog copy is being revised to close loopholes in the process.

(11) MOTION (Menton, Rhyne): The Faculty Senate approves the emeritus status policy as presented by the Provost in his memo of August 22, 2014. Passed by voice vote, without objection. One abstention.

Pres. Topf noted that the criteria set forth are not particularly selective and that approximately 50% of retired faculty have this status. A committee of faculty will now be created according to the provost's specifications to make recommendations to the Board.

(12) MOTION (Roberts, Sawoski): The Faculty Senate recommends to the Board of Trustees that emeritus status be posthumously granted to Dr. Joshua B. Stein, Professor of History. Passed by voice vote without objection, with one abstention.

(13) MOTION (Speakman, O'Connell) The Faculty Senate charges the Executive Committee with seeking clarification from the President regarding recent changes in the Office of Career Services. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Sen. Speakman noted that this item has been placed on the agenda because there have been changes in personnel in Career Services that have been attributed to the need to move in a new direction in that office, but there has been no public announcement or discussion of the matter.

Sen. O'Connell noted how difficult it is to know where to send students who are required to do internships without the faculty knowing the new direction in Career Services.

(14) MOTION (O'Connell, Roberts, with friendly amendment by Speakman, accepted by maker and seconder) The Faculty Senate charges the Academic Policies and Standards Committee to study and make recommendations regarding whether or not double majors should be assigned an advisor in each major. Passed by voice vote without objection.

Extended discussion ensued on this matter. Sen. Rhyne pointed out that the School of Ed model solves the problem by assigning students two advisers, who collaborate at registration time. Sen. Tsankova agreed. It was noted by Sen. Gentles-Peart that advisers in the second major do full advising of the students, but receive no credit re. workload. Sen. Hollingsworth warned of the technical and contractual issues that might emerge with two advisers.

(15) Tabled MOTION to charge the Academic Standards and Policies Committee with seeking clarification regarding the process for approval of catalog courses that are offered as part of a study-away program. Motion to table until the October meeting (Speakman, O'Connell) passed without objection.

Sen. Speakman, who placed the motion on the agenda, moved to table because she was not prepared to fully discuss the motion at this time.

(16) Motion (Hollingsworth, Sawoski) To Amend the minutes of May 2014 to add the course names, titles and changes that were part of the petitions approved at the May meeting. Passed by voice vote without objection.

(17) Committee Reports

Faculty Development Committee chaired by Sen. Gentles-Peart reports that there is a new faculty learning community this year, focused on diversity.

Adjournment at 4 p.m.

Submitted by June S. Speakman
9/6/2014

