

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
Minutes  
October 1, 2014

In attendance: Sens. Bosco, Campbell, Carrington-Farmer, 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. Schroth, Spritz

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

**(1) Executive Committee Report**

Pres. Topf acknowledges receipt of the Deans Council report, and minutes from the FSCC (Sept 24) and FDC (Sept 22).

VP Speakman reports on the meeting of the Executive Committee with the President and the Provost:

- The Board will take up posthumous emeritus status for Josh Stein
- The issue of Career Services involves a personnel matter which cannot be discussed, and a change in direction about which the faculty will be informed at a later date

**(2) Reports from President Farish and Provost Workman.**

a) Pres. Farish:

- October 1 is census day report; the news is good. Enrollment is holding steady with very little beginning-of-semester melt.
- Tuition freeze is resulting in lower levels of financial need for students. In 2012, average unmet need was \$7700; for 2014, it is 5702.
- Attendance at the first Open House was down a bit, perhaps because of great weather
- Regarding the Vision Project: school reports are coming in. On 10/10, the “upstairs” committees are meeting; by February, the process should be complete.

b) Provost Workman:

- Regarding the Vision Project: reports from faculty meetings are good
- All Vision reports will be posted on Bridges
- Curricunet deployment is close; last minute tech problems
- Mapworks—participation rate is 85% (national avg is 25-40%)

- rCloud—with both SECCM and SAAHP students now using it, there have been no capacity problems
- Academic Policies—there are inconsistencies between the catalog and the student handbook in a number of areas. Systematic examination is underway.

(3) **MOTION**: The Senate recommends that the deadline for submission of mid-term warning grades shall be no earlier than the end of the seventh week of the semester. [*Note*: This semester, the deadline would have been October 15 under this policy, rather than October 3.]

Discussion focused on whether the 7<sup>th</sup> week is too late to catch students at risk, but that the 4<sup>th</sup> week is too early for meaningful assessment of student performance. Is there another kind of early warning system that could locate students at risk of failing academically? What percentage of faculty actually submit them? Why do they go to the students' home addresses rather than their campus address? Prov. Workman said that, for next semester, the date would be moved to a few days before the deadline to withdraw from a class, and that he would have a proposal for the Senate at the November meeting.

**Motion to table (Sawoski, Menton) Passed without objection.**

(4) **MOTION** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) to approve the proposal from the General Education Working Group regarding General Education governance and structure.

Extended discussion ensued. Particular concern was raised about the reporting structure for the newly created position of Associate Dean for General Education. By having this person report to the CAS dean, the program becomes isolated and continues to be perceived as excluding participation from the professional schools. The location of the Gen Ed office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of GHH next to the dean underscores this.

In response to these concerns, it was noted that the Associate Dean will sit at Deans Council, on equal footing with the Deans; that if the structure doesn't work, it can be changed; that the vast majority of courses taught and faculty teaching in the Core are in CAS, and that the professional school reps outnumber CAS reps on the Gen Ed Curriculum and Planning Committee.

Concerns were raised about the fact that structures once established tend to stay in place even if they're not working well.

Another focus was on the compensation for course coordinators, which many senators thought was insufficient. In particular, the Core 101 coordinator would have both the lectures and the labs, which are really two distinct courses. Should there be a separate coordinator for Core 101 and Core 101L?

At the end of this discussion, Pres. Farish rose and urged adoption of the new structure.

Motion to call the question (Menton) Carried by more than the required 2/3 vote.

Sen. Micken called for a paper ballot. Ballots were distributed and counted.

**Motion passed 24-5**

(5) **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION** of the administration policy on awarding posthumous degrees.

**Motion ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) The Faculty Senate supports the proposed policy on the awarding of posthumous degrees. Passed without objection.**

(6) **QUESTION TO THE SENATE** from the Executive Committee: Shall Faculty Senate minutes identify speakers by name?

**Motion (Hollingsworth, Campbell) Senate minutes shall not record the names of speakers. Passed 25-3-1**

The discussion focused on the following: without a recording device, can the minutes accurately reflect the speaker's words? Will senators speak more freely if they know their names will not be used? Isn't it wise to keep track of the proponents of particular ideas and positions in case followup or clarification is needed?

(7) **MOTION** (O'Connell, Micken): **As both curricula, and the procedural and IT systems that support their creation, amending, reviewing and approving, affect all faculty members and their programs, the Senate respectfully requests that Academic Affairs provide a detailed implementation plan and timetable for conversion to Curricunet.**

**Motion passed: 26-1-2**

The discussion focused on the dearth of information that has been provided to faculty regarding the rollout of Curricunet. Concerns were expressed about proposals that are in the pipeline in existing system. Will those proposals be imported to Curricunet? What about the archives from years past. There was some lack of clarity regarding these issues. The Provost reiterated his statement that Curricunet would be up next week and faculty would receive full information about it.

(8) **Motion (Speakman, Gentles-Peart) Senate Committee Chairs shall be responsible for posting committee minutes and other relevant documents on the Senate website.**

The motion emerged in response to a question about maintenance of the Senate website. VP Speakman asserted that it is the responsibility of the 1<sup>st</sup> VP to do so, but she was unclear about committee chairs' responsibility.

Submitted by June Speakman

October 18, 2014