

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Minutes
February 4, 2015

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

Absent: Sens. Roberts, Sawoski, Stein

*Dunn was selected by SJS faculty to replace Coon

**There is one vacancy from CAS-HPA due to the resignation of Gentles-Peart.

Guests: Provost Workman, Dean Kathleen McMahon, VP John King

(1) Motion to accept December 3, 2014 minutes as presented. (Bosco, Menton)

Passed without objection.

(2) Committee minutes

Acknowledge receipt of minutes from:

- Deans Council—12/2 and 12/16
- AEC—2/2/15
- Curriculum Committee—12/10 and 1/21/15

(3) Report from the executive committee.

Pres. Topf reported that Sens. Campbell and Gentles-Peart have resigned from the Senate.

Pres. Topf clarified that Standing Committee and other motions, if passed, become valid as soon as the vote is taken. It is not necessary to wait for the publication of minutes to take actions required by such motions. This is particularly relevant for curriculum motions.

Pres. Topf noted that Pres. Farish is in DC and will not attend this meeting.

(4) Remarks from Provost Workman

- **Snow days are presenting problems; at this point, faculty are making their own arrangements. If we miss many more, an official make-up day may have to be arranged**

- **Staff have spent many hours clearing snow and feeding students; Pres. Farish will recognize their contributions at a breakfast**
- Early admit Accepted Students Day on Sunday 2/8
- Vision Project is progressing
- On 2/9, the ad for Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning will be issued
 - This person will create a Center for T and L, lead the Center for Student Academic Success, and lead Interdisciplinary and Honors Programs.
 - Provost asks Senate to run election for 3 reps, Senate Faculty Development Committee will send a rep, Allison Chase Padula will serve.
 - It will be an international search; internal candidates are welcome
- General Education Curriculum and Planning Committee will meet next week
- Academic Integrity Committee will now be chaired by Assoc Dean Bob McKenna
- Academic Standards Committee will be chaired by Assoc Dean Roberta Adams

(5) Title IX Report by Dean Kathleen Mc Mahon and VP John King

In order to comply with federal law, the university is setting up revised policies and procedures regarding sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking and harrasment

- There are 24 trained investigators on campus
- Faculty will be mandated reporters, aka responsible persons
- McMahan will provide a document outlining policies and procedures of responsible reporters for the next Senate meeting
- Students will be informed of the faculty status and their responsibilities

Discussion focused on conditions under which police are contacted, extent to which victims have control of the reporting process, the role of the parents in the process (if student is over 17, it's the student's call)

Speakman has been attending meetings over winter break. Bosco and Graham volunteered to participate in meetings along with Speakman as the initiative moves forward.

(6) update on Student Evaluations of Teaching (Workman)

Director of Institutional Research Susan Akin has developed three options for data collection, one of which is paper and pencil, that she will present to a subcommittee of Senators. An assessment of the questions will follow the implementation of changes in the delivery system. **Sens. O'Connell, Platania and Dermody volunteered to work with Akin on this.**

(7) MOTION (Speakman, Ghanem) The Senate recommends that the final exam schedule be adjusted so that students have a break of 15-20 minutes between each exam.

Provost Workman presented a revised exam schedule that implements a fifteen minute break between exam periods.

Motion amended to thank the provost for his responsiveness.

Passed without objection.

Passed without objection.

(8) Motion (Micken, Bosco) that the Senate recommends that the due date for fall semester grades be returned to the former post-December 25th date—usually 12/27.

Provost responded that the earlier time is required to get suspensions and other academic sanctions in place, and that any date later than the 23rd would make it difficult to get RWU's reports into the Clearinghouse.

Motion failed 5-22-0

(9) Motion (Speakman, Bosco) The Elections Committee is charged with conducting an election for three members of the faculty for the search for a new Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning. Each member shall have an area of expertise and interest either (1) Center for Teaching and Learning, (2) Honors Program, or (3) Interdisciplinary Programs.

The Faculty Development Committee will also send a representative.

Passed without objection.

(10) Motion (Topf, Bosco) that the Steering Committee be charged with selecting three faculty members to serve on the committee nominating former RWU faculty for emeritus status. The three faculty are to serve three-year staggered terms, so that the first selection of the three will each be assigned at random either a one, two, or three year term. (Pursuant to a Senate motion.)

In the course of discussion of this motion, Pres. Topf noted that Pres. Farish had agreed to bring Josh Stein's name to the next board meeting to recommend conferring emeritus status posthumously. **Provost Workman responded with the request for a one-page summary of Josh's significant contributions to the university and his field. Pres. Topf agreed to provide that.**

Passed without objection.

(11) Motion (Micken, Langdon) to charge the University Life Committee with looking into the University policy that requires students to leave residence halls immediately after their last exam. The committee shall report its findings, with recommendations, if any.

- The consequences of this policy are several:
 - Students finish at a time that is difficult for their parents to pick them up;
 - Students are forced to drive at the end of several days of studying and exam taking with no opportunity to rest
 - This mandate is distracting to students at a time when they need to focus on their studies

Passed without objection.

(12) Report on proposed amendment to the Senate constitution.

Pres. Topf reported that he is rewriting the Constitution and by-laws to integrate changes recommended by the Steering Committee. He will send a draft to the Senate shortly with the intention of a first reading in April, a second reading in May, and presentation for a vote of the full faculty at the Fall Conference.

(13) Committee reports

Curriculum

Motion (Hollingsworth, Menton)

To approve the following recommendations from the FSCC:

Approve AS 2013-44, -45, -46, -47: four new courses for Latin American and Latino Studies major. Approved without objection

Approve AS 2013-48 Creation of new LALS minor. Approved without objection.

Chair Hollingsworth noted that an SJS course “Lean Thinking and Lean Management” was tabled pending proposer’s consultation with GSB, and that he awaits clarification of changes in the Political Science core concentration. He also reported that Curricunet is working as planned.

Approve CC-NMJ, change in Marine Bio pre-requisite,

AS 2013-03 new course in Electricity and Magnetism

_____ name change for FANS to Cybersecurity and Networking

_____ Math requirement change for SAS to Math 124

AS 2013-41 Changes to THEAT major/minor

2014-32 CW-345 Advocacy Seminar

Passed without objection.

(14) New business

Motion (Speakman, O’Connell) The Faculty Senate authorizes Pres. Topf to write a letter thanking the staff in Public Safety, Dining Services, Facilities and Residential Life for keeping our students fed and in comfort and for keeping the campus clean and safe, and to thank the students who worked to keep the library and rec center open and cared for the animals in the labs.

Pres.Topf will work with the Provost on how to address the letter and where to present it.

Passed without objection.

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Faculty Senate Minutes, 2/4/15

Submitted to Executive Committee by June Speakman, 2/10/15

Revised and submitted to the Faculty Senate, 2/21/15