

Faculty Senate Minutes of Meeting

Regularly scheduled meeting of the Faculty Senate of Rochester Institute of Technology

Thursday, April 18, 2024

12:15 – 1:50 PM

Zoom

Attendance: See Below

Agenda Item No. 1: Call to Order; A. Newman (12:17)
Meeting called to order.
Agenda Item No. 2: Approval of Agenda; A. Newman (12:17)
Motion: Pam Kincheloe Seconded: Scott Johnson
Agenda Item No. 3: Approval of Minutes; K. Barone (12:17)
Keri Barone: moves to approve Joe Lanzafame: seconds. No objections. April 11, 2024 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Agenda Item No. 4: Executive Committee Report; A. Newman (12:18)
Martin Anselm taking minutes today. Final committee presentations coming to an end. A couple of committees will not present because of little new information or business as usual. Academic affairs is looking for volunteers for commencement. Next week cohorts will be presenting at their college governance meetings. Announced semester is wrapping up and 2 meetings are left. EC report being prepared. Executive committee looking for suggestions for events and on how the EC college visits went.
Agenda Item No. 5: Staff Council Update; B. Strowe (12:21)
Excited about staff appreciate day announced. Preparing end of year reports. Achieving better continuity from year to year is an objective for next year and communication between terms.

Agenda Item No. 6: Student Government Update; A. Shuron (12:23)

Going into appointments for next year's administration.

Reaching out to all departments and introducing new SG members.

End of year party.

Wrap-up documentation.

Agenda Item No. 7: Report from Provost's Advisory Group on the RIT Press; C. Miller (12:24)
Presentation linked below

Charge from Provost on the future of RIT Press. How university run their presses. How a strategic planning process would unfold.

2/3 of R1's have presses. Very important part of many universities.

RIT's established in 2001.

New websites for distribution.

17 awards with 8 in just the last 4 years.

No current director. Absent since Jan 1, 2023. Usually faculty. Staff of 3. 9 publications per year, below average but it has a small staff in comparison to most presses.

Fully independent model. Does everything from finding authors to shipping books.

Imprint model on the other end of scale. Just finding authors but an outsourced group does all the rest.

Looking at various models with no current recommendation. Awards RIT is getting today is on editing and design.

Advisory group suggests an external review. Recommend honoring the strength of the press but expanding and leveraging new technologies. Expend to technical areas of research. While remaining responsive to changes in technology and remaining relevant.

Provost should ask a relevant set of stakeholders to establish and review the external review.

Sam Malachows: Q: Portfolio of publications that RIT does? What other kinds of publications?

A: Most publications are not STEM, more COLA focused. Not much detail on what is published.

A by Laura DiPonzio Heise (Interim Director): Link in Q&A to see new website, and click on link for "subjects" to see the number of topics discussed.

Laura comments: Niche subject areas are often the strength of certain presses. We are very well known for graphics titles. Most are in the arts and humanities. STEM has other avenues for disseminating scholarship, but the University Press becomes important for arts and humanities for an outlet. Presses are not intended to be very profitable, but give an outlet for scholarship. We are also the main publisher for the Memorial Art Gallery (MAG).

Atia Question: Timeline for hiring full time director?

Provost: The librarian search is underway. The librarian is a key part of that decision. Also the external review will be used for identifying candidate requirements. Align the press with campus Engineering and STEM requirements and objectives, while maintaining the arts and humanities support.

[Report from Provost's Advisory Group on the RIT Press](#)

Agenda Item No. 8: General Education Committee Presentation; K. Davis (12:41) *Presentation linked below*

Kelly Davis share's her slides.

Charge is to ensure genEd proposals are reviewed and maintaining intercollege relationships on GenEd requirements. Work with ICC to follow policies and procedures. Rest of charges are in the presentation.

Met 20 times this semester in person and offline. Approved 90 courses and denied 2. Approved 8 immersions.

Review GE framework. Ongoing discussion on improving the GEC framework.

Contribute the course management system. Specific examples are wrong or older versions of forums used for suggesting courses are being used.

New committee is being formed for next year.

Provost comment: Thanks to the committee, with the support of faculty government, ICC, we need to take a thorough review of GEC requirements. We need to look at the requirements for AI and other topics. It will take 2-3 years to implement.

Atia: New Curriculum management system will take 2-3 years to implement.

Provost: First phase of new management system is the catalog of courses within the registrar.

[General Education Committee Presentation](#)

Agenda Item No. 9: Graduate Council Presentation; J. Venkataraman (12:49) *Presentation linked below*

This time sharing the report. Last time we showed slides and passed changes.

Grad council charge is to review programs. Jayanti walked through the section of the reports. The committee had nearly 100% participation from the committee members.

4 carryover charges. 1 new in 2023. Completed all 5 charges this year. Presented on March 21st and all motions were accepted.

Acknowledgments to many in the report.

No suggestions for new charges for next year other than standing charges.

Jayanti reviewed quickly the 4 carryover charges, including a meeting with Provost David early in the academic year to get his perspective since these charges were given by the previous provost.

56 graduate program data review was extensive.

Charges 3 and 4 were on advanced certificates. NYSED has no credit stipulation. No changes recommended.

New Charge how new programs in the last 5 years are going. Brenda Thornton was very helpful in getting data. No red flags in the data for the new programs. All meeting their projected enrollment. Grad Council suggests that new programs should provide this kind of data for new programs in their unit for review along with their proposal for a new degree.

New programs are listed at the end of the report. A third may be coming from CET.

Sample data table is given at the end of the report for future proposals.

[Graduate Council Presentation](#)

Agenda Item No. 10: B 02.0 Continuing Votes; A. Newman (1:05) *Presentation linked below*

Updates on 11 motions. a vote to the general committee to motions that have been approved so far to our faculty at large for a vote so we can implement some of these changes. We would like to have certain adjustments to be made in 6 months from voting.

Still trying to consolidate the AAC and ASSA functions.

ICC removal of subcommittees from the charter is causing a lot of confusion and lack of understanding. A lot of conversation is being conducted about the work that they are doing. 5 curriculum committees working under them. Not up for a vote.

Motion 5: Regarding the RABC should absorb the Long-range Planning and Environmental Committee

Motion 6: to ensure treasure of the FS on the RABC committee.

Motion 7: to remove the term “tenured” from RABC membership requirements since several members are currently lecturers. There should be equality included in the language. Redline document is presented to the senate.

Eric Williams: Q: How are all these changes to B2 changes being handled? Process normally is why changes are being made, we discuss, then go back to constituents. Where is the process going?

A: The process has followed that process. These questions have gone out for some time.

Eric: Are we expected to remember from many months ago?

A: We shared this many times at the beginning of the semester, strawpoll in March. Breaking it down into smaller chunks to make it easier to vote on. All documents have been shared.

Eric: Suggest there should be a standard process for this kind of change, and it shouldn't be a “Unique” situation. We have not seen the results of the strawpoll.

A: Adita asked Sam to show the results of the strawpoll.

Joe Lanzafame: His constituents LRPEC did meet and had some discussion on the proposal. They did not like some of these changes. They are concerned with the issues of sustainability. Long range planning was once merged with Environment and sustainability became less important. Also asking about 2 year terms.

A: These changes would not change next year. We would need to change terms after next year. EC and Tamaira reviewed the available positions to ensure there are still enough to represent all the colleges. There are still MANY openings.

Ivan Puchades: Agree, the entire process was a little confusing. Many of the times we discussed it wasn't presented in a sense of urgency. Han't snuck up, but it has been some time since this was presented. Not ready to vote for these motions. Disconnect between senator and committee opinion. But when the LRPEC committee discussed the possibility, there was considerable opposition.

Sam: Strawpoll results. Controversial motions are not being considered today. Some of the non-controversial changes were incorporated in the motions. #5 motion, there were a few pointed out suggestions, but this motion will ensure FS representation is on the motion.

Atia asked to review the other motions: Sam presented that there was strong support for other motions. Those weren't controversial ones. AAC and student affairs, Research and Scholarship are not up for vote today. Motion #10 is being help up on and approaching cautiously. #11 DEIC will also be held back for serious reservations.

Sam mentioned: two basic trends. 1. delusion of committees being a concern. 2. representation, not enough.

Overall we are holding up on any controversial motions.

Bolaji Thomas: First time seeing straw poll results. I would like time to review these results. Talked to people on FAC and RFC. And there were some concerns.

Hamad Ghazle: Highly important for our University with long discussions. Some results have been shared with the senate. Give senators more time to look at these items. Bring it up a different time before the end of the year.

Eric Williams: Straw polls as a streamlined process of getting feedback. This seems like a different working mode for getting feedback for changing policy. Are the results something that is shared on the google drive? If we are going to use straw polls then all results should be there.

Hamad: All documents are in the Google drive and senators have made comments in the google drive.

Ivan: We need to clarify the requirements from a service commitment.

Kari Barone: Survey results were not shared, because the EC was trying to field some feedback from the senators. Just used to consider the ideas. Then the EC spent the time working on those items that the senators felt were important.

Atia: Break between straw poll and motions, was to collect inputs from senators and edit the motions as needed. When EC got the results, some required more discussion and others were simple changes. I understand that people will be jarred for changes to the committees, but we as FS are in charge of these committees and the burden of the FS is too much. We don't have the time to talk to all 1100 faculty members, and we have to make hard cuts. Two distinct bodies of faculty members. One is a group of active faculty in committee and one is those that avoid them. We are trying to just get people who care.

Joe Lanzafame: No way there is anything nefarious or lack of transparency. The straw poll should lead the discussion, not replace it. A few very good sets of suggestions, although few, from people from these committees. We should consider them. We should table so we can discuss those points.

Atia: lots of participation with the straw poll, It's still important that we do this. It's ok to wait to vote. Things that have already been approved we should send those out. We cannot forget that there is still a really strong reason to consolidate the committees.

Hamad: Very healthy discussion.

Atia: 2nd of May is the deadline otherwise it will be pushed to next year.

New Motion by Hamad: Table these motions to May 2nd.

Vote: 31-0-1, Passes

Atia: StrawPoll not a permanent way to collect information. Just an avenue for getting recommendations.

[B 02.0 Continuing Votes Presentation](#)

Agenda Item 11: New Business; A. Newman (N/A)

Ran out of time.

Agenda Item No. 12: Adjournment; A. Newman (1:53)

Attendance 4/18/2024

Name	Relationship to Senate	Attended	Name	Relationship to Senate	Attended
Abushagur, Mustafa	KGCOE Senator	Excused	Lanzafame, Joseph	COS Senator/LRPEC and ASSAC Rep	X
Adrion, Amy	ALT CAD Senator		Lapizco-Encinas, Blanca	KGCOE Senator	X
Aldersley, Stephen	Communications Officer/ SOIS Senator	Excused	Laver, Michael	CLA Senator	X
Anselm, Martin	CET Senator	X	Lee, James	ALT CET Senator	
Bamonto, Suzanne	CLA Senator	X	Liu, Manlu	SCB Senator	Excused
Barone, Keri	Treasurer/CLA Senator	X	Malachowsky, Samuel	Vice Chair/ GCCIS Senator	X
Boedo, Stephen	ALT KGCOE Senator		McCalley, Carmody	ALT COS Senator	
Brady, Kathleen	ALT NTID Senator		McLaren, Amy	CAD Senator	
Brown, Tamaira	Senate Coordinator	X	Newman, Atia	Chair/CAD Senator	X
Butler, Janine	NTID Senator	X	Newman, Dina	COS Senator	X
Capps, John	CLA Senator	X	Olles, Deana	COS Senator	X
Chiavaroli, Julius	ALT GIS Senator		Olson, Rob	ALT GCCIS Senator	
Chung, Sorim	ALT SCB Senator	X	O'Neil, Jennifer	ALT CET Senator	
Crawford, Denton	CAD Senator		Osgood, Robert	ALT CHST Senator	
Cromer, Michael	ALT COS Senator		Puchades, Ivan	KGCOE Senator	X
Cui, Feng	ALT COS Senator		Ray, Amit	CLA Senator/ICC Rep	X
David, Prabu	Provost	X	Ross, Annemarie	NTID Senator	X
Davis, Stacey	ALT NTID Senator	X	Shaaban, Muhammad	ALT KGCOE Senator	
Deese, Frank	CAD Senator	X	Sheffield, Jr. Clarence	ALT SOIS Senator	
Dell, Betsy	CET Senator	X	Song, Qian	SCB Senator	X
DiRisio, Keli	CAD Senator	X	Staff Council Rep	Brendon Strowe	X
Eddingsaas, Nathan	COS Senator/RSC Rep	X	Student Government Rep	Alex Shuron	X

Faber, Joshua	COS Senator	X	Thomas, Bolaji	CHST Senator	X
Fillip, Carol	ALT CAD Senator		Tobin, Karen	NTID Senator	
Ghazle, Hamad	Operations Officer/CHST Senator	X	Tsouri, Gill	KGCOE Senator	X
Ghoneim, Hany	ALT KGCOE Senator		Ulin, Robert	CLA Senator	X
Hardin, Jessica	ALT CLA Senator		Van Aardt, Jan	ALT COS Senator	
Hazelwood, David	NTID Senator	X	Warp, Melissa	ALT CAD Senator	
Hsieh, Jerrie	ALT SCB Senator	X	Weeden, Elissa	GCCIS Senator	X
Jadamba, Basca	COS Senator	X	White, Phil	ALT GCCIS Senator	
Johnson, Dan	CET Senator	X	Williams, Eric	GIS Senator	X
Johnson, Scott	GCCIS Senator	X	Worrell, Tracy	ALT CLA Senator	
Kincheloe, Pamela	NTID Senator	X	Zanibbi, Richard	GCCIS Senator	X
Kiser, Larry	GCCIS Senator	X	Zlochower, Yosef	COS Senator	X
Krutz, Daniel	ALT GCCIS Senator				
Kuhl, Michael	KGCOE Senator	X			

Standing Committee(s) Represented: ASSAC, ICC, LRPEC, RSC

Interpreters: Nic Crouse-Dickerson and Jennifer Mura

Presenters: Casey Miller, Kelly Davis and Jayanti Venkataraman