

**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting  
September 9, 2009  
Founder's Room, Lovett Hall  
12:00 P.M.**

**Agenda**

- I. Welcome and Introduction of Senators
- II. Announcements
  - A. Three required actions:
    1. Approval of Executive Committee Slate
    2. Approval of 2011-2012 Academic Calendar
    3. Ratification of summer recess action regarding Ph.D. in Business
  - B. Other announcements by Speaker or Deputy Speaker
- III. Announcements by written notice
- IV. Working Group Reports
  - A. Teaching report—Jim Young
  - B. Honor Council report—Evan Siemann
- V. New Business: Senate Working Agenda for 2009-2010
  - A. (i) “Grade Inflation”/Academic Honors Working Group
  - (ii) Appeals/Grievances/Hearings Working Group
  - B. Possible CRUP III Working Group
  - C. Other issues
- VI. Executive Session with Faculty Merger Review Committee Chair Don Morrison
- VII. Adjourn

**Senators present:** Gregory Barnett, Randy Batsell, Steven Cox, Bridget Gorman, Jane Grande-Allen, Deborah Harter, John Hempel, Tom Killian, Philip Kortum, Mark Kulstad, David Leebron, Scott McGill, Susan McIntosh (acting parliamentarian), Matteo Pasquali, Albert Pope, Rob Raphael, Brian Rountree, Dale Sawyer, Gautami Shah, Robin Sickles, Evan Siemann, Meredith Skura, Jane Tao, Duane Windsor, and Jim Young.

**Senators absent:** Sarah Ellenzweig, Eugene Levy, John Sparagana, Randy Stevenson, and Devika Subramanian.

**PROCEEDINGS**

**I. Welcome and Introduction of Senators**

Duane Windsor (Speaker), welcomed all present to the first Faculty Senate meeting of the 2009-2010 academic year. He distributed a six-page document to Senators which consisted of the agenda for today's meeting (one page), Information Announcements by Notice (two pages), the Senate Working Agenda for 2009-2010 (one page), and the schedules for the Executive Committee, Faculty Senate, Plenary, and Agenda meetings (two pages). He distributed a three-page set of required motions.

Windsor asked each Senator to state his/her name and department. Windsor announced that Albert Pope (Architecture) will replace John Casbarian (acting dean) for the fall 2009 semester, and announced the appointment of Mark Kulstad (Philosophy), Humanities Seat D, for 2009-2010.

Windsor stated that the Senate is going to use OWL-Space as much as possible this year for communication with Senators. A general agenda will be issued as early as possible; documents posted to OWL-Space for each meeting will be part of the agenda; and a detailed agenda will be provided in advance of each meeting as feasible. He said that a general agenda for each meeting will be sent via PRES-FAC to the Rice faculty at least one week prior to each Senate meeting, with a specific agenda sent closer to the meeting date as feasible. He plans to ask the Executive Committee to assess the Bylaws and Meeting Rules in light of experience. It is typically not possible for a detailed agenda to be posted one week prior to each Senate meeting.

## II. Announcements

### A. Required actions of the Senate at first meeting of the academic year

#### 1. Approval of the Executive Committee slate for 2009-2010:

Duane Windsor, Speaker	(Jones School)
Jim Young, Deputy Speaker	(Engineering)
Deborah Harter	(Humanities)
Tom Killian	(Natural Sciences)
Phil Kortum	(NTT Research)
Rob Raphael	(Engineering)
Gautami Shah	(NTT Teaching)
Meredith Skura	(Humanities)
Randy Stevenson	(Social Sciences)
John Casbarian (from Jan. 2010)	(Architecture)

No alternative slate was proposed. Meredith Skura moved the proposed slate be approved, Deborah Harter seconded, and the resulting vote approved the slate.

2. **Approval of the Academic Calendar for 2011-2012:** The Faculty Senate has the right and duty to set the Rice academic year calendars. The 2011-2012 calendar, already posted as tentative, conforms to the general formula for calendars passed by the Senate on January 23, 2008, and the motions passed regarding course add and drop dates on January 14, 2009. Windsor explained that change in the posted calendar would involve restudy of the general formula. Jim Young (Deputy Speaker) moved that the 2011-2012 academic calendar be approved, Tom Killian seconded, and the resulting vote approved the calendar.

3. **Ratification of summer recess action of the Executive Committee:** Actions taken by the Executive Committee during the summer recess must be ratified by the Senate. During summer 2009, the Executive Committee approved a proposed

change in name of the Ph.D. in Management to Ph.D. in Business. The change was requested by the Jones Graduate School of Business so that the Ph.D. would correspond with the changed name of the school (from Management to Business). Randy Batsell moved that the action of the Executive Committee be ratified by the Senate, Matteo Pasquali seconded, and the resulting vote approved the Ph.D. name change. The ratification will be posted as a Resolution of the Senate.

#### **B. Other announcements by Speaker or Deputy Speaker**

1. The Senate Parliamentarian for 2009-2010 is Randy Stevenson.
2. A new Convener of Appeals and Grievances is needed, and this person must be a Senator.
3. The Senate meetings will no longer be videotaped due to budget constraints, but the meetings will be audio taped to confirm accuracy of minutes taken. Once a written draft of the minutes has been reviewed by the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, a copy will be placed on the Senate OWL-Space site for the rest of the Senators to offer comments or corrections. After one week, the final minutes will be placed on the (public) Faculty Senate website. The audio tape of each Senate meeting will be kept for one year; then destroyed.
4. Jim Young requested that OWL-Space be used for Senate communication instead of email, especially in the case of emails with attachments. He said that Senators may choose to opt out of “low priority” notices sent from OWL-Space in order to limit the number of notices received, thus receiving only the “high priority” notices. However, he asked that those who choose this option view the site regularly in order to stay informed. He said that the “Forum” portion of the site is to be used for discussion instead of email chains.

#### **III. Announcements by written notice**

Windsor referred the Senators to pages 2 and 3 of the document handed out at the start of the meeting which list twelve announcements by written notice. These announcements are also shown in brief form below:

- Senators should review their personal information and terms of office on the Senate website for accuracy. Report any errors to Sharon Mathews: [shm4@rice.edu](mailto:shm4@rice.edu).
- Casbarian will not serve on the Senate or on the Executive Committee in the fall, but will return to both in January 2010.
- Senators should read any proposals from the Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum (CUC) in a timely manner and forward any questions or comments directly to Susan McIntosh, chair, with a copy to the Speaker.
- As announced by President Leebron, a provost search will be commenced shortly. Leebron will consult the Speaker and Deputy Speaker concerning search committee membership.
- Fidelity has been added to Rice retirement investment options.
- The Senate liaison to the Rice University Athletics Committee (RUAC) is Robin Sickles.

- The Drop/Add language was finalized recently per the resolution passed in January 2009 and can be viewed in the online General Announcements.
- Faculty will pay \$288 per year to use the new Gibbs Recreation Center.
- Reviews of Deans were recently conducted in the Jones School of Business and the Brown School of Engineering. The Provost may propose minor adjustments in the process based on this experience.
- Charges of three University Committees were changed: Undergraduate Admissions (formerly Admissions and Student Financial Aid), Graduate Council, and Undergraduate Curriculum. All charges are available online.
- Three changes in Rice's tuition remission policy have been adopted after study by the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee: 1) the addition of eligible stepchildren, 2) the required vesting period has been increased from one to three years, and 3) the tuition remission period has been reduced from 10 semesters to 8. Please see Rice Policy No. 430 for effective dates and other important information.
- CRUP II (Committee on the Rice Undergraduate Program) report is in the drafting stage, and the CRUP III process will begin soon.

#### **IV. Working Group Reports**

##### **A. Teaching Working Group report**

Jim Young, Chair of the Teaching Working Group and Deputy Speaker, stated that he has placed the report from this working group on the Senate's OWL-Space site. (Use this link to view the report: [Teaching Working Group Report](#).) There are four areas cited in the report in need of future study, and Young said that he would like the Senators to now prioritize these issues. He asked that the Senators take the test he has placed on the OWL-Space site which consists of five questions: a ranking for each of the four identified issues from the report, and a fifth question which asks if the respondent would like to serve on the Teaching Working Group. The four issues are: teaching awards; faculty development; effective methods for evaluation of teaching; and incorporating those evaluations in the processes used for promotion/tenure and contract appointment decisions.

##### **B. Honor Council Working Group report**

Evan Siemann, Chair of the Honor Council Working Group, distributed a summary of key information from this working group's report. He stated that the Working Group consisted of Senators, students, and representatives from President Leebron's office. Siemann said the group gathered information from Rice and from peer schools with student-run Honor Systems. A survey was conducted during the summer among three groups at Rice: faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students, with identical questions asked of each group. Siemann noted that the results from the survey were sufficiently strong and uniform that the working group is today submitting two motions to the Senate. Motion A proposes that a separate process be created for graduate students. In his remarks, Siemann (as mover) changed the verb "is" to "appears" in the first line of the motion as there is not a definite factual basis that Rice is strictly unique. (The motion for the next Senate meeting is so amended.) Motion B proposes that an option be created for faculty and students to resolve minor

violations outside of a formal Honor Council process. The report, including the survey and two motions, can be viewed by using this link: [Honor Council Working Group Report](#). Evan Siemann moved that the Senate approve Motion A, and Windsor seconded it. Randy Batsell moved that the Senate approve Motion B, and Matteo Pasquali seconded it. Windsor then asked that the Senate table the two motions for action in October in order to afford the faculty time to study the report, to be posted as soon as possible after today's meeting.

Young said that the Senate had received input from several individuals after the working group report was released. He explained that the issue that had originally come to the Senate was the overload of the Honor Council. Young said that although other comments are welcome, this preliminary report from the Working Group should be considered as a limited look at the Honor System. He added that perhaps another group or groups might wish to examine the entire Honor System.

A Senate vote tabled the two motions to be brought forward at the October meeting for action. Killian asked for clarification of the actions intended in the two motions. Windsor explained that Motion A is being sent to the Graduate Council for study of the recommended action (separation of graduate and undergraduate systems), while Motion B is being sent to the (student-run) Honor Council for study of the recommended action (faculty handling of minor infractions). Young further clarified that the approval of these motions by the Senate is a request for action by these two groups. What should come back to the Senate is a definite process from the Graduate Council for implementing Motion A, and a report from the Honor Council as to what it proposes for Motion B and thinks of Motion A. It was noted explicitly that the Honor Council is an independent body; its members may decide not to make changes in policy. Windsor pointed out that everyone will have the report (including the motions and recommended actions) as soon as posted.

#### **V. New Business: Senate Working Agenda for 2009-2010**

- A.** Windsor directed the Senate to page 4 of the agenda document listing "Possible Major Initiatives for 2009-2010," as well as "Completion of Ongoing Activities." He said that the major new initiatives the Executive Committee had recently discussed were the need for (i) a "grade inflation"/academic honors working group, and (ii) a working group to study the appeals/grievances/hearings process. Randy Batsell volunteered to lead the first working group. Randy Stevenson will chair the second working group which should ideally include former Convenors.
- B.** A third possibility, Windsor said, is a working group for CRUP III (Committee on the Rice Undergraduate Program). He said that a meeting had been called for a small group to discuss the CRUP process, and he will report back to the Senate for action after the meeting.
- C.** Windsor asked if anyone present had additional working groups to propose. None were offered at this time. Windsor stated that new items could be added to the year's agenda later. Harter, supported by Windsor, noted that Rob Raphael will now study

faculty governance at the Baylor College of Medicine. Siemann said that the Biosciences majors are being restructured and he would like this urgent item added to the Senate's Spring 2010 calendar. He will work with Susan McIntosh of the CUC, who has been apprised of the matter already. Windsor stated that documents will be submitted to the Senate in due course regarding creating and changing of both undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

**VI. Executive Session with Professor Don Morrison, Chair of the Faculty Merger Review Committee (FMRC)**

Beginning at about 1 p.m., an Executive Session (Senators only) was held so that Don Morrison could discuss with the Senate the confidential FMRC interim report which was presented to the Rice faculty at the confidential plenary meeting held August 28, 2009.

**VII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.