

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2006-07-1
September 12, 2006

ADMINISTRATIVE TITLE CHANGES
EX OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP ON THE FACULTY SENATE

During the 2001-2002 academic year, the Faculty Senate discussed changes in administrative positions and titles as they affect the membership of the Faculty Senate. In May 2002, a referendum of the Faculty approved changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution Article III Membership and Article VII Amendment of the Constitution.

This referendum amended Article III by replacing the existing administrative titles with the new titles. The referendum also provided for an abbreviated process in Article VII for those instances where there was agreement that the title change was such that a referendum was not required.

Provost Swan has made the following official changes in administrative titles/positions:

- The title of Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, Research and Outreach has been changed to "Vice Provost for Research, Graduate Studies and Outreach and Dean of the Graduate School."
- The position of Vice Provost for Information and Dean of University Libraries has been separated into two positions: "Vice Provost for Information Technology Services" and "Dean of University Libraries."

The Executive Committee agrees that the change in the Research, Graduate Studies and Outreach position is in name only and may be changed in Article III in accordance with the procedures outlined in the following two paragraphs of Article VII of the Faculty Senate Constitution:

3. Proposals for changing titles of ex officio members of the Faculty Senate shall be submitted to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. If in the judgment of the Committee, a title change is of a nature such that incorporating it into the Membership Article (III) of this Constitution does not require a referendum, the Committee shall report this finding to the Faculty Senate, together with a recommendation for an appropriate change of the Membership Article. Unless specified otherwise in the

recommendation, the change shall become effective upon a two-thirds majority vote of the senators present and eligible to vote. The recommendation may not be voted upon at the meeting at which it is first moved. (Approved by referendum, May 2002)

4. Any member of the Senate may challenge a finding of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee that a change of the title of an ex officio member of the Faculty Senate can be incorporated into the Faculty Senate Constitution without a referendum. Such a challenge may be presented only prior to the actual vote on the change. If the challenge is upheld by a majority of the senators present and eligible to vote, the title change shall be submitted to the referendum process as outlined in Article VII, 1 and 2, of this Constitution. (Approved by referendum, May, 2002)

With regard to the change in the Vice Provost for Information Services and Dean of University Libraries, the Executive Committee believes that a referendum of the faculty is required.

The position of Vice Provost for Information and Dean of University Libraries has been separated into two positions: Vice Provost for Information Technology Services and Dean of University Libraries. Throughout the period when the position of Vice Provost and Dean was held by Paul Gandel and Chris Wessells, ex officio membership on the Faculty Senate was based on the "dean" title.

The Executive Committee agrees that the Vice Provost should become an *ex officio* member of the Faculty Senate, as are the other Vice Provosts, which are listed by title. To eliminate the need for future referenda if a Vice Provost is added to Academic Affairs or if a Vice Provost's title is changed, the Executive Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate authorize a referendum to replace the named list of Vice Provosts in Article III with the term "Vice Provosts." In addition, the Executive Committee recommends a similar amendment with regard to Vice Presidents, by replacing specific titles with "Vice Presidents."

Recommendations**:

A. That the Faculty Senate authorize a referendum of the faculty to amend Article III Membership of the Faculty Senate Constitution to read as follows (a ~~strike through~~ indicates deletions, change is in **boldface**):

Article III. Membership.

1. The Senate shall consist of designated ex officio administrative members, ex officio student members and of elected members of the full-time teaching, library, research and extension faculty, chosen in the approximate ratio of one senator for each 10 full-time faculty members... The President, the Provost, the ~~Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Research and Outreach, the Vice Provost for Urban Programs,~~ **Vice Provosts**, the **Vice Presidents for Administration**, the ~~Vice President for Student Affairs, the Vice President for University Advancement,~~ the deans of the colleges and schools, the Dean of Admissions and the President or in his/her absence, the Vice President of the Student Senate and the President or in his/her absence, the Vice President of the Graduate Student Association shall be members of the Senate ex officio without the right to vote, but with the right to make and second motions...

- B. That the Faculty Senate authorize a change in Article III by replacing the title of Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, Research and Outreach with "Vice Provost for Research, Graduate Studies and Outreach and Dean of the Graduate School" in accordance with the provisions of Article VII, paragraphs 3 and 4, until such time as the constitutional amendment is approved by a referendum of the faculty.

* *Endnote: these recommendations require a 2/3-majority vote and may not be voted upon at the meeting at which they are first moved.*