Faculty Senate Speaker Christopher Johns-Krull called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

I. Report from the Faculty Senate

Johns-Krull gave a report of the Faculty Senate’s work over the last academic year. This included:

Approved Undergraduate Programs
- Minor in Entrepreneurship
- Minor in Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Science
- Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Statistics
- Interdisciplinary Minor in African and African American Studies
- Minor in History
- Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Biosciences
- Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in Health Sciences and in Sports Medicine and Physiology
- Minor in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Approved Graduate Programs
- Graduate Certificate in African and African American Studies
- Business PhD Major Concentrations
- Professional Masters in Applied Chemical Sciences
- Full Time Masters of Liberal Studies and Diploma in Liberal Studies
- Psychological Sciences PhD Major Concentrations
- Master of Social Policy Evaluation

Approved Program Updates
- Name change for Master of Arts in Architecture

Approved Policies
- Guidelines for Graduate Certificates
- University Policy 214: Faculty Performance Reviews

Approved Actions:
- Academic relief in Spring 2020
- Graduation accommodations due to Spring 2020 Covid-19 disruptions
- Removal of 60-hour credit rule
- Modification of academic calendar formula
Resolution from the Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate approved the following statement of thanks to all those involved in the university’s response to dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2020:

The Executive Committee, on behalf of the Faculty Senate, gratefully acknowledges SA Resolution #4 in which the students expressed their appreciation to the Rice community for the heroic response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of the Faculty Senate, the Executive Committee in turn wishes to express their sincere appreciation to the Rice student body, both undergraduate and graduate students, for their dedicated efforts in adjusting to the many changes that took place in the Spring 2020 semester. All members of the Rice community, faculty, staff, administration and students were key to making the semester a success and all their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Competed Working Groups
- Pass/Fail
- 60-hour Working Group
- Academic Calendar

Ongoing Working Groups
- Advising
- General Education
- Online Course Delivery

Johns-Krull then announced the members of the 2020-2021 Faculty Senate. They are as follows:

Natural Sciences: Christopher Johns-Krull, Pat Hartigan, Angel Marti-Arbona, Ed Nikonowicz, Mike Wolf, Colin Zelt
Engineering: Dennis Cox, Michael Diehl, Jun Lou, Rob Raphael, TBA
Humanities: Daniel Domingues, Sarah Ellenzweig, Esther Fernandez, Elora Shehabuddin, Liz Petrick, Nicole Waligora-Davis
Social Sciences: Sergio Chavez, Mahmoud El-Gamal, Christopher Fagundes, Lyn Ragsdale
Architecture: Jesús Vassallo
Jones School of Business: Doug Schuler, TBA
Shepherd School of Music: Charles Geyer
Non-Tenure-Track Faculty: Beth Beason-Abmayr, David Messmer, Ray Simar, Pablo Yepes
Presidential Appointee: Jamie Padgett, TBA
Ex officio members: President Leebron, Provost DesRoches

Johns-Krull thanked the following departing senators:
Gwen Bradford (6 years of service)
Gregory Chambers (1 year of service)
Nate Citino (3 years of service)
Marek Kimmel (6 years of service)
Eden King (1 year of service)
Emilia Morosan (3 years of service)
Scott Solomon (3 years of service)

He also expressed gratitude for the 2019-2020 University Committee Chairs:
Rudy Guerra, Admissions
Mark Jones, Athletics
Patricia Reiff, EX&S
Paula Sanders, Faculty & Staff Benefits
Matthew Baring, Fellowships & Awards
April DeConick, Graduate Council
Duane Windsor, Graduate Honor Council
Fred Oswald, Library and Marshals
Kathleen Matthews, Faculty Advisory Committee to the Office of Faculty Development
Will Cannady, Parking and Transportation
Tony Varilly-Alvarado, Faculty Advisory Board for the Program in Writing and Communication
James McNew, Research
Frank Geurts, Teaching
Jeffrey Fleisher, Undergraduate Curriculum

II. Remarks from President Leebron
President Leebron said it was a year unlike any experienced. He expressed his thanks to the faculty and the Faculty Senate for responding quickly to the students’ needs in light of the pandemic and reaching the right judgments. He said the relationship between the administration and the Faculty Senate was unusual among universities and the ability to work together was more important than ever. He said there were challenges and hard decisions ahead for the university. Leebron said that Rice was in much better shape than some of its peers and he remained optimistic, but the university must be prepared to react.

Leebron then named faculty members who passed away in the last academic year:

Walter Widrig, Art History 30.5 years of service
Calvin Class, Physics and Astronomy 34 years of service
John Bryant, Economics 35 years of service
Michael Boshernitzan, Mathematics 37 years of service
Maria Teresa Leal, Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies 40 years of service
Stephen Tyler, Anthropology 41 years of service
Jay Roberts, Physics and Astronomy 44 years of service
Ian Duck, Physics and Astronomy 45 years of service
Gilbert Cuthbertson, Political Science 56 years of service
C.M. (Hank) Hudspeth, Political Science 72 years of service
President Leebron then recognized faculty members who were retiring, listed below.

Nicholas Schumway 10 years of service
James Dannemiller 16 years of service
Robert Hardt 32 years of service
Andre Droxler 33 years of service
Linda McNeil 36 years of service
John Boles 39 years of service
Gordon Wittenberg 41 years of service
Meredith Skura 41 years of service
Lon Wilson 47 years of service
Huey Huang 46 years of service
Martin Wiener 52 years of service

III. Presentation and Approval of Undergraduate Degree Candidates
Johns-Krull then called on Dean of Undergraduates Bridget Gorman to present the Spring 2020 undergraduate degree candidates. Gorman said that the Office of the Registrar had prepared the official list of May 2020 undergraduate degree candidates and she met with Registrar Tenney to review the list. She said the list was available in book form uploaded to the Senate wiki. The totals, by degree, were also listed on the screen. Gorman said there was one requested graduation exception. She said her endorsement of the degrees came as a motion to accept the list of undergraduate degree candidates for May 2020 conferral. Ed Nikonowicz seconded the motion.

Gorman said the exception requested was not related to Covid-19. She said the lack of exceptions for pandemic-related issues indicated that the academic accommodations did their intended job. Gorman reviewed the details of the exception. Professor Deborah Harter said there was a compelling case to approve the exception. The motion was passed 25-0.

The slides from the presentation can be viewed HERE.

IV. Presentation and Approval of Undergraduate Latin Honors
Johns-Krull then asked Dean Gorman to present the list of Latin Honors. Dean Gorman said she and the registrar had also discussed and reviewed the calculation of Latin Honors for the 2019-2020 academic year. Johns-Krull said the endorsement and presentation of the Latin Honors came as a motion for approval and the calculations appeared on the screen. Johns-Krull asked if there were any questions. There were not. The motion was seconded and approved with a 23-0 vote. The calculations can be viewed HERE.

V. Presentation and Approval of Candidates for Advanced Degrees
Johns-Krull then called Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Seiichi Matsuda to the podium to present the lists for masters and doctoral candidates. Dean Matsuda said that
the Office of the Registrar had prepared a list of May 2020 graduate-level degree candidates and he met with the registrar to review the list. He said the lists were posted on the Senate wiki. The totals, by degree, were also listed on the screen. To view the slides, click HERE. He said there were no exceptions being put forward. He said his endorsement came as a motion to accept the list of graduate-level degree candidates. Johns-Krull asked if there were any questions. There were not. The motion was seconded and approved with a 24-0 vote.

Johns-Krull thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.