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1-29-2018

## FSEC Minutes January 29, 2018

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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### Recommended Citation

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "FSEC Minutes January 29, 2018" (2018). *Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas and Minutes*. Paper 3.

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #20**  
**January 29, 2018**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM on Monday, January 29, 2018, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Conley presiding. Senators Derbyshire, Gindy, Leonard, and Mahler were present. Senator Rice was absent.
2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #19, January 22, 2018 were approved.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
  - a. Chairperson Conley reminded the Committee that Mr. Pennypacker, Manager of Web Communications, would join the meeting at 2 PM to present the new URI website template.
4. **ONGOING BUSINESS**
  - a. Senator Mahler reported that the ad hoc committee charged with reviewing and revising the Administrator Evaluation process was meeting monthly, was engaged in thoughtful discussion, and expected to complete its work by May 2018. Chairperson Conley suggested that the Faculty Senate be provided with an intermediate report on the progress of the ad hoc committee at the next Senate meeting.
  - b. Chairperson Conley solicited suggestions for an additional faculty member to be appointed to the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee (AS&CC) for the remainder of the spring 2018 semester as a sabbatical replacement. The FSEC discussed the charge to the AS&CC from the Senate to consider removing references to Columbus Day from the academic calendars.
  - c. The FSEC discussed the ad hoc committee to define non-credit credentials. Chairperson Conley said that he was still in the process of soliciting faculty members to serve.
  - d. Chairperson Conley informed the Committee that the brochure development, to summarize the duties of the new Senate committees, was still ongoing. A subcommittee of FSEC members will meet to draft committee chair guidelines. Senator Derbyshire expressed concern for the impact on the Honors Colloquium of the merger of the Honors Committee with the Teaching, Advising, and Assessment committee. Discussion followed.

- e. Vice Chairperson Leonard expressed an interest in better understanding the college budget process and the individual college level decision-making criteria. It was suggested that the subject be discussed with the Provost.
5. Mr. John Pennypacker joined the meeting at 2:00 PM. As Manager of Web Communications, he provided the FSEC with a preview of the new URI website, still under development, in order to solicit feedback. He stated that the URI homepage was designed primarily for those who were not familiar with URI. It was intended to be easy to navigate and to spotlight aspects of the [2016-2021] Academic Strategic Plan, the President's Transformational Goals for the 21st Century, and achievements in scholarship and creative work. He said that the visual goal was to provide "snackable" content using multi media and to provide a consistent, accessible user experience. He provided a rationale for the planned changes to the homepage. FSEC members suggested that the homepage content be designed for audiences other than and in addition to traditional prospective undergraduates and their families. Mr. Pennypacker was urged to consider links for prospective graduate students, transfers students, and prospective faculty. Senator Derbyshire explained that a prominent faculty link was a necessary tool for recruitment, especially recruitment of a diverse faculty. She said the developing robust plans for diversifying faculty was one of the key goals of the Academic Strategic Plan. Discussion followed. Chairperson Conley asked if department webpages would be customizable. Discussion was terminated by the need to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff