FSEC Minutes March 5, 2018

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #24
March 5, 2018
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM on Monday, March 5, 2018, in Library
  Conference Room B, Chairperson Conley presiding. Senators Derbyshire, Gindy, Leonard,
  Mahler, and Rice were present.

2. Executive Director Mahoney, Director Acciardo, and Mr. Pennypacker, members of the
  Department of External Relations and Communications, joined the meeting at 1:05 PM.
  Discussion was resumed about the prototype of the new URI website that had commenced on
  January 29, 2018. The new homepage, gateways for specific audiences, “landing pages,” and
  website format changes were presented and reviewed. The FSEC posed the following
  questions: how are faculty currently involved in the decision-making process regarding web
  content, what policies guide the office of Web Communications/Communications and
  Marketing in the design of the URI website, and how does the website facilitate the work of
  URI faculty and staff (employees)? Director Mahoney indicated that the President’s Web Policy
  Council had been responsible for the website but it has not met in some time (the President
  has been asked to increase the number of faculty on the Council). She said that the homepage
  was primarily for external audiences, designed for recruiting students, but added that the
  content strategy was a collaborative effort. Director Mahoney and the other guests were
  urged to consider faculty needs. Senator Rice said that, as a faculty member, since the URI
  branding of many years ago, the homepage was no longer useful. Senator Derbyshire said that
  appealing to prospective faculty was important. In addition to addressing prospective and
  current faculty needs, Director Mahoney was urged to offer links to general education,
  fellowships, and classroom learning. Discussion followed about web content at the department
  level. Mr. Pennypacker said that, ideally, there should be one [department] contact for
  significant content changes and another for routine changes (e.g., changes to a department
  directory). Director Mahoney summarized that there was clear need for faculty input into the
  content strategy. The FSEC indicated that it would consider ways to facilitate the faculty
  contribution. Director Mahoney urged the FSEC members to inform their colleagues of the
  re-design underway. She said that the prototype should be available in April; the new site was
  planned to be launched in June. The guests left the meeting at 1:50 PM.

3. Minutes from FSEC meeting #23, February 26, 2018 were approved as amended.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

   a. The Committee reviewed the schedule of upcoming ad hoc committee and other
      meetings.
b. The Committee has been asked by Director Rohland to review a revised draft of “Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities” and provide feedback.

5. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. Noting the meeting scheduled for the following day (March 6) of the ad hoc committee on non-credit credentials (badges), the FSEC discussed the offering of badges as part of the Graduate School’s professional development plan. The FSEC expressed concern for the oversight of the content of the current badge offered in Diversity and Inclusion and any other badges planned to be offered in the future. Concern was expressed regarding the use of the term “badge” because of the inference of the introduction a new credential.

b. The FSEC discussed the concern on the part of the Council of Deans regarding a perceived deficit of seats in specific general education courses. FSEC members acknowledged the significant work involved in preparing a course for the general education program and the lengthy, multi-step approval process.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff