

2018

## 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