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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #28
April 9, 2018
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM on Monday, April 9, 2018, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Conley presiding. Senators Derbyshire, Gindy, Mahler, and Rice were present. Vice Chairperson Leonard was absent. Vice Chair-elect Senator Nassersharif was also present.
2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #27, April 2, 2018 were approved.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
 - a. The Chair and Vice Chair reported on their meeting of April 5 with the Provost. The Provost had indicated a willingness to provide technical support for the effort to upgrade the curricular submissions processes as part of the new committee reorganization.
 - b. Chairperson Conley reported that he had secured one faculty member to serve on the ad hoc committee to consider a new learning management system to replace SAKAI, and appointment of a second faculty member was pending.
 - c. Recommendations to be made by the Executive Committee to the Senate at the April 19 Senate meeting were reviewed.
4. **ONGOING BUSINESS**
 - a. The FSEC reviewed the nominations for the Faculty Outstanding Service Award. The Committee members noted that, this year, all the nominees were deserving of the honor. Discussion followed. The Committee moved selection of Dr. Fritz Wenisch, Professor of Philosophy, as the 2018 FOSA recipient. The motion passed.
 - b. The FSEC discussed its concerns about the authority of the Faculty Senate over matters relating to the Graduate Faculty, the Graduate School, and the Graduate Council. Noting the succession of authority as stated in University Manual section **5.65.30**, "The Graduate Council, acting on behalf of the Graduate Faculty and subject to the referendum power of the Graduate Faculty and to the stated powers of the Senate, the President, and the RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, shall exercise the following powers..." the Committee expressed concern that decisions of the Graduate Council that by-pass the Faculty Senate also by-pass the President's legislative authority. The Committee indicated that it would continue its review of pertinent University Manual passages to resolve questions about the powers of the Graduate Faculty, the governance of the Graduate Manual, and the scheduling of Graduate Faculty meetings.

Discussion followed.

- c. The FSEC discussed the Senate committee restructuring. Returning senators (2018-2019), deans, and department chairs would be sent information this week about the workload adjustment associated with some of the new committee positions and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Provost. The FSEC discussed the need to develop new committee training materials and convene the new committee chairs during the summer. A motion was made to recommend to the Senate that the Faculty Senate approve the formation of an ad hoc committee to develop training materials associated with the new standing committees of the Senate and work with the new committee chairs during summer 2018. The motion was seconded, and approved. Chairperson Conley outlined a strategy for accomplishing the work. Once goals were determined, an ad hoc committee member would be paired with a standing committee chair; “duets” would work in a manner similar to the restructuring committee of last summer.
- d. Chairperson Conley suggested that the 2018-2019 FSEC work to establish a Workload Adjustment policy based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed in March 2018.
- e. Chairperson Conley reported that he had, in discussion with the Provost, called attention to aspects of the curricular submission requirements that do not originate with Senate or Senate Committee requirements. He indicated that the Curriculum and Standards Committee would be guided to review aspects of the submission process that have accrued to the process but are connected to interests outside of the Senate.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff