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FSEC Minutes April 16, 2018

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #29
April 16, 2018
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM on Monday, April 16, 2018, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Conley presiding. Senators Derbyshire, Leonard, Mahler, and Rice were present. Senator Gindy was absent.
2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #28, April 9, 2018 were approved.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
 - a. Chairperson Conley reported that Director DiCioccio would join the meeting at 2:00 PM.
 - b. Chairperson Conley reported that he had possibly secured a second faculty member to serve on the ad hoc committee to consider a new learning management system to replace SAKAI.
4. **ONGOING BUSINESS**
 - a. The FSEC discussed its concerns about the authority of the Faculty Senate over matters considered by the Graduate Council. Noting the powers of the Senate as articulated in RI state law and the Constitution of the Faculty Senate, the Committee considered the possibility that some curricular matters have been enacted without Senate approval and, consequently, without the approval of the President. The Committee discussed the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's (ABM) program format that had been developed by the Graduate Council but not submitted to the Faculty Senate for approval. Committee members were concerned that departments with existing accelerated programs at URI had not been consulted about the plans for the format before the Graduate Council redefined the term "accelerated" with restrictions not consistent with the use of the term by the existing programs. The ABM introduces the practice of double counting up to one-third of the course requirements of the masters and excludes a thesis. These restrictions are not required of the existing accelerated programs and should be considered separately since existing accelerated programs may not wish to adopt these practices.
 - b. The FSEC discussed the Senate committee restructuring and plans to finalize the electronic survey that will be distributed to senators for them to indicate their committee preferences. It was decided to require responses by May 11.
5. Director DiCioccio, Office of Innovation in General Education, joined the meeting at 2:00 PM. She reported that the general education course fair, held on March 28, 2018, had been

successful with 68 faculty and 240 students participating. Mr. John Olerio, Assistant Director of Summer Sessions and Winter J-term, also had participated. Director DiCioccio said that there were plans for Advising to participate at future course fairs events. Director DiCioccio reported that the call for nominations for the General Education Innovation Awards had been distributed. The nomination deadline was April 23. Two recipients would be honored at the May 3 Faculty Senate meeting. She reported that she was finalizing an article that would spotlight 4 faculty who had incorporated exceptionally innovative methods or activities into their general education courses. Director DiCioccio reported that the new general education program has prompted questions and concerns about the course petition and waiver process, which is currently college-based. She recommended that the Senate develop a process specifically for general education courses because departments were not necessarily equipped to make appropriate judgments about course equivalencies. Director DiCioccio raised concerns about existing general education courses, specifically ART 120 and GWS 150, which have been approved to change one of the existing student learning outcomes. She indicated that students have pre-registered in these courses and expect to be able to fulfill a specific set of outcomes. Changing the outcomes unexpectedly could have unfavorable consequences for the students already enrolled. Ms. Neff noted that there is a policy (established between the Senate and Enrollment Services) that course changes may not be made in e-Campus for the subsequent semester even if fully approved after the start of pre-registration for that semester. Ms. Neff said that she would contact Director DiCioccio after the meeting to provide her with more information. Director DiCioccio said that she had plans to update the General Education website in the summer with the addition of exemplary proposals.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff