

2017

## FSEC Minutes June 23, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #2**  
**June 23, 2017**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM on Friday, June 23, 2017, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Conley presiding. Senators Derbyshire, Gindy, Mahler, Rice, and Senate Chair Emeritus Sullivan were present. Senator Leonard was absent.
2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #1, May 19, 2017 were approved.

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

Chairperson Conley reported on the status of the Faculty Senate appointees to the search committee for the Vice President of Research and Economic Development.

Ms. Neff was asked to confirm the meeting time for the upcoming July 20 meeting with the Provost and the acting Commissioner of Postsecondary Education, Dr. Dann-Messier.

**4. ONGOING BUSINESS**

- a. Chairperson Conley provided an update on the ad hoc committee restructuring committee. He reported that the committee had met three times, the group had discussed the basic committee membership structure, and election and appointment options. He reported that two-member subcommittees have been assigned to each of the potential new committees to review duties as listed in the By-Laws, to ensure that all duties were covered somewhere within the new committee descriptions, and to draft any new duties that would need to be included.
- b. The FSEC discussed plans for an orientation for Senators, "Senate Camp," to take place on September 14, at 3:00 PM, the Thursday before the first Faculty Senate meeting in the fall. The Committee proposed a tentative agenda: brief comments by the President, introduction to FSEC members and their role, current issues and timelines in which they are planned to be presented to the Senate, preparing for Senate meetings, an overview of parliamentary process and a mock motion, questions and answers, and a discussion of Senators' expectations.
- c. The FSEC reviewed 2017-2018 committee vacancies. Chairperson Conley reported that Professor Hicks had accepted the appointment of Chair of the Undergraduate Academic

Advising Committee. He said that he intended to contact a former member of the Library Committee to discuss its viability. The Committee reviewed the vacancies for the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee and proposed appointments from the list of faculty volunteers.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

Professor Martins (College of Nursing), a member of the Administrator Evaluation Committee (AEC) for Vice Provost Libutti, joined the meeting at 10:45 AM. She expressed concerns, on behalf of the AEC for the Vice Provost, about the survey instrument, the lack of relevance of some of the required survey questions, and the format of the survey results returned to the AEC for analysis. She indicated that the single instrument format hindered the acquisition of useful feedback specific to the individual administrator. Discussion followed. Professor Martins asked that the Faculty Senate consider an assessment of the survey instrument currently used and consider allowing alterations to the format. Additional recommendations included shortening the survey (fewer questions), staggering the distribution of multiple reviews to avoid an overload of survey requests at one time, and appointing an ad hoc committee to undertake improvements to the clarity of guidelines and mandates for the process, and autonomy and limits of the committee in determining the content and structure of the survey. Senator Mahler, a member of the 2016-17 Administrator Evaluation Committees for Vice Provost Libutti and Dean Richmond, had provided the FSEC with a review of the process as experienced by the Dean Richmond committee. She concurred that written instructions for AEC members would benefit the process and suggested that instructions and guidelines include a list of the appropriate materials that the administrator should and/or may provide to the AEC. Senator Mahler also suggested that the Faculty Senate reconsider changing the frequency of evaluations. She said that a three-year time span is not necessarily sufficient to allow administrators to make meaningful progress towards goals and suggested that a review carried out every six years might be more effective. Discussion followed. Chairperson Conley said that he would consult with the AE Coordinator regarding the recommendations and work on a charge for an ad hoc committee to address the concerns. Professor Martins left the meeting at 11:30 AM.

## **6. ONGOING BUSINESS**

- a. The FSEC returned to the review of 2017-2018 committee vacancies. The Committee reviewed the faculty vacancies on the Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee; the Council for Research; and the Joint Committee on Online and Distance Learning and proposed appointees from the list of faculty volunteers for these committees.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff