FSEC Minutes September 18, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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1. The meeting was called to order at 9:11 AM on Monday, September 18, 2017, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Conley presiding. Senators Derbyshire, Gindy, Leonard, and Rice were present. Senator Mahler was absent.

2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #5, September 11, 2017 were approved.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

   a. Chairperson Conley reported that he and Vice Chairperson Leonard were scheduled to meet with President Dooley on the following day, Sept. 19. Agenda items were discussed.

   b. Chairperson Conley reported that the FSEC was scheduled to meet with Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Beauvais on Sept. 25. Agenda items were discussed.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

   a. The FSEC discussed the issue of faculty from one college teaching courses in another college without consent of the department chair. Chairperson Conley reported that the deans of the two colleges planned to meet and resolve the issue. FSEC members discussed interdisciplinary courses and the need for clarity regarding departmental oversight and jurisdiction as related to workload and teaching assignments.

5. NEW BUSINESS

   a. The FSEC reviewed a request from Vice Provost Beauvais regarding compliance with the Council on Postsecondary Education policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence that required training of all "responsible employees," which would include all faculty. Chairperson Conley indicated that the Committee would follow up with the Provost on the subject at their next meeting with him. The Committee discussed past practices in harassment and discrimination awareness training and reporting at the institution.

   b. Chairperson Conley informed FSEC members that the College of Nursing had requested that Senate meetings be streamed to the Nursing Education Center in Providence for the
benefit of College of Nursing faculty and administration who would have difficulty attending the meetings in person. Discussion followed. The FSEC decided to allow a one-way transmittal of the proceedings at Faculty Senate meetings to a discreet location in Providence. Proceedings would not be recorded.

c. Subsequent to the distribution of the September 21 Faculty Senate meeting agenda, it was noted that the meeting had been scheduled on Rosh Hashanah, a major Jewish holiday. Chairperson Conley said he would apologize to those Senators who would not be able to attend the meeting because of the conflict. He indicated that, before scheduling the 2018-19 meetings, he would request (per University Manual section 6.20.11) that the University Chaplains provide the Senate with a comprehensive listing of religious holy days that traditionally preclude secular activity.

6. The Committee returned to an item of old business previously discussed on August 25: the request from the Center for Career and Experiential Education (CCEE) (University College) to create a common course number for internship courses across all departments in the College of Arts and Sciences in order to comply with reporting requirements. The Committee agreed that there was merit in utilizing a common course number for undergraduate internships but that departments should not be compelled to develop an internship course (using the common number) if such a course were not otherwise integral to the program or major. The Committee also agreed that departmental faculty who propose internship courses, whose names appear on proposal forms, should be teaching or administering the internships. Staff not associated with the originating college should not developing, providing, teaching, or administering these courses for a department.

7. Senator Derbyshire reported on a course proposal issue involving the processing procedures for courses in the Honors Program. Chairperson Conley indicated that the procedures for Honors courses would be reviewed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff