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FSEC Minutes September 25, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #7
September 25, 2017
MINUTES**

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM on Monday, September 25, 2017, in the President's Conference Room, Green Hall, Chairperson Conley presiding. Senators Derbyshire, Gindy, Mahler, and Rice were present. Senator Leonard was absent.
2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #6, September 18, 2017 were approved.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
 - a. Chairperson Conley reported on his and Vice Chairperson Leonard's meeting with President Dooley of September 19. They had discussed the goal of the Board of Education to establish performance-based budgeting for the state's three institutions and URI's many successes to date in the absence of established baseline performance measures. Senators Leonard and Rice, previously appointed to the delegation from URI to work with the Commissioner's Office to advance this task, have met with the consultant from the Commissioner's Office.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. The FSEC discussed the concerns voiced by faculty at the September 14 Faculty Senate "Camp" (welcome event): regulations for students on repeating courses, the number and distribution of Graduate Teaching Assistants, and student's use of profanity in public places on campus. Chairperson Conley reported that he had referred these concerns to the appropriate committee or other entity.
 - b. The FSEC discussed the motion passed at the September 21 Faculty Senate meeting to appoint 6 faculty members to an ad hoc committee to review the procedures for evaluation of administrators. Suggestions were made regarding those to be considered for the ad hoc appointments. Senator Mahler volunteered to be on the committee from the FSEC. Chairperson Conley said he would follow up.
 - c. The FSEC discussed course approval processes for courses in programs that are not governed by a single academic college, for example, the Honors Program, the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program, and courses submitted in the ACH (Academic Health Collaborative) code. Chairperson Conley raised the issue of signing authority of

program administrators on proposal forms including the roles of deans and department chairs, whose faculty would teach the courses. Discussion followed.

5. Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Beauvais joined the meeting at 9:45 AM.
 - a. The FSEC responded to a request from Vice Provost Beauvais, dating back to May 26, 2017, that the Faculty Senate help address a Title IX (Education Amendments of 1972) compliance requirement that all responsible employees at URI, including full and part time faculty, be trained in reporting obligations concerning sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual violence. Chairperson Conley indicated that offering a training session during a Faculty Senate meeting, as was suggested by the Vice Provost, was not the venue to provide sufficient education and training on the topic. He suggested that incentivized online training be considered. The FSEC supported the need for more consistent, accessible, comprehensive, and effective resources and procedures on campus to address these and other issues of harassment and discrimination. Senator Derbyshire indicated that there had been an effort in 2008-09 to create a more effective committee, with faculty membership (under Presidential jurisdiction), to provide campus education and advocacy for victims of harassment. It was suggested that the Vice President for Student Affairs be contacted, and Vice Provost Beauvais indicated that she would follow up with the Associate Vice President for Community, Equity, and Diversity.
 - b. The FSEC discussed their concerns with the Provost about the development of interdisciplinary courses especially in multi-college programs. They expressed the need for a clear process that would 1) apply to all programs not governed by an academic college or governed by more than one academic college, 2) address jurisdictional questions of course proposal authorization, workload and teaching assignments, and budgetary authority; and 3) endure over time with expected personnel changes. Discussion followed. The problem was described as one of needing to connect the program content experts (program administrators) with the budget of the department whose faculty would deliver the courses and to provide a mechanism for interdisciplinary teaching to be credited towards promotion or tenure.
 - c. The Provost introduced Committee members to a training program, designed to address the rise in mental health issues in society, especially among 14 – 24 year olds. The program, called “Mental Health First Aid,” consists of two 4-hour sessions to train individuals to be able to offer initial help to young people showing signs of mental illness or in crisis. The FSEC supported the program and agreed that faculty should be encouraged to attend the sessions. The FSEC suggested that each academic department attempt to identify at least one representative interested in obtaining the training.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff