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## FSEC Minutes October 16, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #9  
October 16, 2017  
MINUTES**

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM on Monday, October 2, 2017, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Conley presiding. Senators Derbyshire, Gindy, Leonard, Mahler, and Rice were present.
2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #8, October 2, 2017 were approved.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
  - a. Chairperson Conley summarized the meeting of the Executive Committee with Provost DeHayes and Vice President Rider of October 10. They had discussed the policy governing speakers on campus.
  - b. Agenda items for the upcoming (October 17) meeting of the Chair and Vice Chair with President Dooley were finalized.
  - c. Senator Rice requested that the authorization status of existing centers and institutes be reviewed. There was concern that some centers and institutes of long standing have not been authorized through the regulations as set forth in Chapter 8 of the University Manual.
4. **ONGOING BUSINESS**
  - a. Chairperson Conley provided an update regarding faculty appointees to the ad hoc committee to review the procedures for the Senate evaluation of administrators. Committee appointments were not yet complete. Chairperson Conley said he would continue to follow up.
  - b. The FSEC discussed the Administrator Evaluation (AE) process and the duties and responsibilities of the evaluation committee members. To ensure good communication in the future, the FSEC decided to request that AE Committee chairs and the AE Coordinator meet with the FSEC and report on the process when reviews were complete or nearing completion. The Committee noted that the Senate review process did not apply to all vice presidents and associate vice presidents. Chairperson Conley indicated that the ad hoc committee could address the possibility of including these positions in the process. The FSEC selected faculty from among the nominees for the AE Committees for Deans Boughida, Corliss, Ebrahimpour, Larrat, and Wright.

- c. The FSEC discussed the standing committee restructuring recommendations as proposed on the October 19 Faculty Senate meeting agenda: 1) that the Senate approve replacing existing By-Laws of the Faculty Senate 4.20 – 4.88 with new sections, 4.20 – 4.70, proposed Standing Committees of the Faculty Senate; that the Senate approve changes to By-Laws 4.13- 4.16 (basic membership structure); and that the Senate approve a method of appointing members of standing committees and direct CBUM (the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee) to draft language to accomplish the method.
5. Professor Larsen of the University Libraries joined the meeting at 10:03 AM. He reported on the efforts of the Affordable Course Materials Task Force. The Task Force was convened in response to Governor Raimondo’s September 2016 Open Textbook Initiative intended to address the rising cost of college textbooks by transitioning to openly licensed textbooks. The Task Force has researched, evaluated, and is encouraging uses of different methods of providing affordable course materials. One method is Open Educational Resources that provides free use of textbooks, lesson plans, course notes, tests, etc. under an open license. Professor Larsen had drafted a resolution that he proposed to present to the Faculty Senate encouraging the adoption and creation of affordable course materials. Senator Rice moved to present the resolution as a recommendation of the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded and discussed. Concern was expressed that developing these materials would be time-consuming for faculty. FSEC members asked if faculty would incur costs. The motion was tabled to allow the Task Force to review and approve it. Professor Larsen was asked to revise the resolution, ensure that the Task Force had approved the language of the resolution, and return a revision to the FSEC.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff