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## FSEC Minutes October 23, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #10**  
**October 23, 2017**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM on Monday, October 23, 2017, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Conley presiding. Senators Derbyshire, Gindy, Leonard, Mahler, and Rice were present.
2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #9, October 16, 2017 were approved as amended.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
  - a. Chairperson Conley summarized the October 17 meeting of the Chair and Vice Chair with the President. They had discussed the university travel policy and the status of the development of the (higher education) performance funding formula. The President had suggested scheduling a meeting of himself, Provost DeHayes, and the full Executive Committee to discuss performance funding.
  - b. Executive Committee members reviewed the upcoming events involving their participation with the NEASC site visit team.
  - c. Chairperson Conley reported that he had been contacted by the Alumni Association seeking a faculty representative to the Alumni Association Executive Board.
4. **ONGOING BUSINESS**
  - a. Chairperson Conley reported that the ad hoc committee to review the procedures for the Senate evaluation of administrators was nearly complete.
  - b. The FSEC selected faculty from among the nominees for the AE Committees for Deans Corliss, Ebrahimpour, and Wright.
  - c. Ms. Neff reported that she had discovered that the President's letter to the URI community summarizing the 2016-17 evaluation of the performance of Provost DeHayes had been posted on the Faculty Senate website without her knowledge. The FSEC discussed the appropriateness of administration altering the content of the Faculty Senate website without consent or notice.
  - d. Senator Mahler reported that the Administrator Evaluation Committee for Dean Richmond had met with the Provost.

- e. The FSEC discussed one of the motions approved at the October 19 Faculty Senate meeting pertaining to standing committee restructuring: to increase the membership of the Research and Creative Activities Committee, directing the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to consider language that would include additional members to review proposals through the creation of subcommittees.

The FSEC considered augmenting the proposed Research and Creative Activities Committee by adding two subcommittees, following the model proposed for the Curriculum and Standards Committee. The names of the subcommittees proposed were Competitive Grants Subcommittee and Center Review Subcommittee. Workload reductions, similar to those for the chair and members of the Curriculum and Standards Committee, would be proposed with the language.

- f. The FSEC reviewed the procedure for returning the amended language to the Faculty Senate.
- g. The Committee reviewed previously approved procedures for processing Honors courses. Excerpted from Bill #07-08-23, March 27, 2008:

“The approval process for new honors sections of existing courses will be as follows: Departments will submit proposals to create honors sections of existing courses to the Honors Director; once these proposals are approved by the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee and the Honors Director, they will be scheduled under their original department code and course number, as specified above.

Scheduling of honors sections of existing courses will remain the responsibility of the Honors Program.

The Honors Program will use the HPR course code only for unique honors courses that do not have a regularly scheduled equivalent, such as HPR 124 Honors Course in Fine Arts: The Creative Process.

The approval process for new honors courses that do not have a regularly scheduled equivalent will remain unchanged. Interested faculty will submit a course proposal to the Honors Director. If the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee approves this new course, the Honors Director will submit it to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, the Curricular Affairs Committee, and the Faculty Senate for further approval.”

The submission and approval process approved in 2008 is no longer carried out. A new process has not been submitted to the Senate for approval. Chairperson Conley explained that there is concern regarding the signing authority of program administrators on proposal forms. Discussion followed. Chairperson Conley asked Committee members to consider the following questions for the next meeting: What do the signatures of authority imply (what purpose is served)? What is the significance of a

dean's signature? What is the difference between a course offered *in* an interdisciplinary program and a course offered *through* an interdisciplinary program? How can this be put into policy?

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff