

2017

FSEC Minutes November 6, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "FSEC Minutes November 6, 2017" (2017). *Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas and Minutes*. Paper 25.

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #12
November 6, 2017
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM on Monday, November 6, 2017, in the President's Conference Room, Green Hall, Chairperson Conley presiding. Senators Derbyshire, Gindy, Leonard, Mahler, Rice, and Senator Emeritus Sullivan were present.

2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #11, October 30, 2017 were approved as amended.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

The FSEC made recommendations for faculty appointees to the search committee for the Vice Provost for Global Initiatives.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. Six faculty members, including four senators, have been appointed to the ad hoc committee to review the Administrator Evaluation process. Senator Mahler, a member of the committee, will initiate contact to convene the group.

b. The FSEC selected faculty from among the nominees for the Administrator Evaluation Committee for Dean Ebrahimpour.

c. The FSEC reviewed the status of the committee restructuring proposals under consideration by the Faculty Senate. The proposed amendment to the Committee for Research and Creative Activities was discussed. The order of business for returning to the By-Laws changes at the upcoming November 16 Faculty Senate meeting was discussed.

5. Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Beauvais joined the meeting at 9:30 AM.

a. Chairperson Conley asked the Provost to comment on the NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) site visit of October 23-25. The Provost said that the visiting team's response was, overall, a very positive one. As part of their verbal exit report, the visiting team shared some questions on the role of the Council on Postsecondary Education in the governance of the University, especially regarding the importance of URI's mission as the flagship research university being recognized as distinct among the institutions in the system. The Provost reported also that the team had noted that bureaucratic processes were perceived by some on campus as a barrier to accomplishing new initiatives. Vice Provost Beauvais reported that the team had

acknowledged URI's progress in the areas of general education, academic program review, and assessment, but questioned the value of URI 101. The Provost indicated that the team's initial draft written report is expected in early December.

- b.** Chairperson Conley asked the Provost if he were amenable to meeting with the FSEC and the President, at the President's suggestion, to discuss performance funding and the funding formula. The Provost agreed to meeting to establish a proactive strategy. Discussion followed regarding metrics and implementation.
- c.** Chairperson Conley reminded the Provost that, with regard to the verbal report to the constituency of the Dean of University College for Academic Success who had been evaluated in 2016-17, the Dean's constituency was comprised of *all tenure-track faculty who are currently teaching URI 101 or who have served as advisors to University College during the five years immediately preceding the evaluation and all academic department chairpersons* (University Manual **5.76.12**). Discussion followed about expanding the constituency, for future evaluations, to all faculty through an amendment to either University Manual section **5.76.12** (constituent groups) or **10.90.15** (Verbal Reporting to Constituency).
- d.** The Provost discussed with the FSEC the possibility of redesigning URI 101, asking the Committee to consider learning outcomes appropriate for a freshman seminar experience. The Provost suggested that an altogether new or redesigned course be managed through the Office of Innovation in General Education. The FSEC discussed requiring the course as part of the general education program to ensure that it is audited on a regular basis.
- e.** Chairperson Conley informed the Provost that the FSEC was resuming consideration of badges (non-credit credentials) as a follow-up to a proposal raised in the Senate in April 2017. Vice Provost Beauvais said that Associate Dean Rusnock was working to develop a plan for badges and would be meeting with a work group on November 14.

Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Beauvais left the meeting at 10:20 AM.

- f.** Executive Director Mahoney joined the meeting at 10:20 AM. She provided an update on the University's new communications strategy, an effort directed at facilitating the upcoming fundraising campaign. She described the goals of the External Relations and Communications (ERC) department: to serve as a clearinghouse for all information about the University, to ensure best practices in brand management, to avoid oversaturation of communications, and to ensure that website development adheres to the University's web policy. Director Mahoney reported on efforts to improve audience response to communications. Utilization of two new platforms, "news" and "events," and the dissemination of fewer messages has resulted in a significant increase in "open" rates over the last two months. Director Mahoney distributed a document summarizing the policies and standards of the Web Policy Council and indicated that policies were

undergoing streamlining for ease of use. She said that, of concern to the ERC, is the high number of authorized web users, those with access to make changes to the website. She said that trainings were under development for website users. Senator Mahler suggested that trainings include an accounting of those authorized to make changes to a website. Senator Derbyshire asked if the Web Policy Council membership could include more faculty and for greater visibility through the URI website (homepage) of resources for faculty, especially important for new faculty. Chairperson Conley suggested that the work of the ERC and the Web Policy Council should include feedback from end users to ensure that policies and practices accomplish what is intended.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff