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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #14
November 27, 2017
MINUTES**

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM on Monday, November 27, 2017, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Conley presiding. Senators Derbyshire, Gindy, Leonard, Mahler, and Rice were present.
2. Minutes from FSEC meetings #12, November 6 and # 13, November 20, 2017 were approved.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
 - a. The FSEC confirmed its upcoming meeting with Director DiCioccio on Dec. 4.
 - b. Agenda items were discussed for the upcoming (December 5) meeting of the Chair and Vice Chair with President Dooley.
 - c. Agenda items were discussed for the upcoming (December 11) meeting of the Committee with Provost DeHayes.
 - d. Vice Chairperson Leonard provided a report on her and Senator Derbyshire's meeting with the Provost of November 21.
 - e. The FSEC confirmed its meeting schedule for the spring 2018 semester.
4. **ONGOING BUSINESS**
 - a. The FSEC reviewed the status of the standing committee restructuring initiative. It was suggested that information about the new committee structures and the new membership selection process be communicated to deans and all faculty well in advance of the college elections for Senators in the spring. Current standing committee members will also be informed of the changing committee membership requirements. Chairperson Conley proposed developing training materials for each new committee. Discussion followed about the format and content of the materials. Chairperson Conley proposed that the FSEC start drafting the training materials for the Curriculum and Standards Committee, a committee that will function with subcommittees, and the

Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee, a simple 6-member committee.

- b.** The FSEC discussed non-credit credentials referred to as digital badges. The FSEC affirmed its intent to communicate with Associate Dean Rusnock about its concerns and plans to proceed with forming an ad hoc committee to define non-credit credentials. Chairperson Conley cited [Section 16-32-10](#) of the State of Rhode Island General Laws which assigns responsibility to the Faculty Senate to attend to the development of such credentials. Discussion followed.
- c.** Chairperson Conley proposed establishing commonly-held principles to help advance the goal of determining a process that will govern curriculum development, especially course approvals, in interdisciplinary programs that are not housed in a college or department and do not oversee workload (teaching) assignments nor the budgets attached to them. He offered the following statements:

 - i) Interdisciplinary programs are a good thing.
 - ii) Someone has to pay for them.
 - iii) Someone has to be in charge of them.
 - iv) The Faculty Senate has control over the curriculum and the work of these programs.

The FSEC discussed the dilemma created by the fact that departments are responsible for workload, a budgetary commitment to offer a course is implicit in the course proposal process through the requirement of department and college signatures, and interdisciplinary courses fall outside of this process and requirement. In recognizing the need for a university-wide workload policy for interdisciplinary programs, Chairperson Conley urged FSEC members to think beyond existing procedures.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff

