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FSEC Minutes December 4, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #15
December 4, 2017
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM on Monday, December 4, 2017, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Conley presiding. Senators Derbyshire, Gindy, Leonard, Mahler, and Rice were present.

2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #14, November 27, 2017 were approved.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

The FSEC reviewed its upcoming meeting dates and schedules.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. The FSEC discussed non-credit, 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 of at least 6 faculty members to define non-credit credentials at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Potential committee members were suggested. Discussion followed.

b. The FSEC discussed the need to establish a process that would govern curriculum development, especially course approvals, in interdisciplinary programs that are not housed in a college or department. Commonly-held principles about interdisciplinary programs were discussed.

5. Director DiCioccio, Office of Innovation in General Education, joined the meeting at 10:02 AM. Senator Mahler asked the Director for her understanding of the applicability of the D1, Integrate and Apply student learning outcome to 100- and 200-level courses, specifically, if the integrative learning experience could be achieved from knowledge acquired within the course or would rely on previous or other experiences. The Director indicated that, if multiple disciplines were incorporated into the course, the intended application could be derived from within a course, at any level. The Director reported that a workshop to assist faculty with the development of D1 courses had been hosted in October by the Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning. Senator Williams, Chair of the General Education Committee, had assisted with the instruction. 14 faculty had attended; several D1 course proposals were in preparation. Another workshop to assist faculty in preparing
Grand Challenge courses was planned for the spring 2018 semester. A second General Education Course Fair had been held on October 18 for students to preview courses for the spring 2018 semester. Director DiCioccio reported that a shortage of courses still existed in the following outcomes:

- C1 - Develop and engage in civic knowledge and responsibilities
- C3 - Develop and exercise diversity and inclusion responsibilities
- D1 - Integrate and apply
- G - Grand Challenge

Director DiCioccio reported that Phase I of the assessment of the General Education Program would be completed by the end of the spring 2018 semester. Data would be collected from courses that assessed A4, Arts and Design; B3, Mathematical, Statistical, or Computational strategies; and D1, Integrate and Apply. The Subcommittee on the Assessment of General Education (SAGE) was preparing a report on the 2016-2017 assessment data. Once Phase 1 was completed, the Director and Senator Williams planned to revise the rubrics to produce uniformity of vocabulary. Director DiCioccio reported that there were plans to consult with an external professional to assist with the development of a permanent assessment plan to commence in 2019. The Office of Innovation in General Education plans to recognize faculty and support general education activities through the establishment of a General Education Innovation Award and a General Education Innovation Fund. The Director asked that two members of the FSEC join the committee to help define “innovation” and to help select an awardee in spring 2018. Senators Derbyshire and Mahler volunteered to be part of the awards committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff