

2017

FSEC Minutes January 20, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #23
January 20, 2017
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM on Friday, January 20, 2017, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Sullivan presiding. Senators Byrd, Leonard, and Mahler were present. Senators Conley and Tsiatas were absent.
2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #22, December 19, 2016 were approved.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
 - a. The FSEC reviewed the schedule of meetings for the Spring 2017 semester.
 - b. The FSEC discussed potential members of the 2017-18 Nominating Committee whose names would be submitted to the Faculty Senate on January 26.
4. **ONGOING BUSINESS**
 - a. The Committee discussed the issue of changing the membership of the Faculty Senate by expanding eligibility to full-time non tenure-track faculty, specifically Senior Lecturers, Teaching Professors, and Clinical professors. Chairperson Sullivan said that Vice Provost Katz (through the Office of Institutional Research) had provided the following data: the distribution of faculty by title at 5-year intervals over the last 20 years, the annual distribution of faculty by title in each college since 2013, and a 5-year forecast of potential hires of new faculty. Chairperson Sullivan said that he would present the data at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting during discussion of the Senate membership issue. He said that he had also been provided with promotion projections for Lecturers. Senator Leonard asked if data were available indicating the change over time of the percentage of tenure-track versus non tenure-track faculty in each college. FSEC members discussed the need to address the potential increase in size of the Senate, as a body, if membership were expanded to include non tenure-track faculty. The Committee decided to address the size of the Senate after the issue of including non tenure-track faculty had been determined. The Committee discussed the perceived motives to expand Senate eligibility to non tenure-track faculty and expressed concerns about an unintended compromise of the research enterprise and increased difficulty in securing funding support for graduate student research.

- b.** The Committee briefly reviewed the proposed restructuring of a number of standing committees of the Senate. Chairperson Sullivan suggested that the FSEC members be prepared to discuss further at the next FSEC meeting.
- c.** Chairperson Sullivan said that he had presented to the Provost the proposed revisions to University Manual sections 8.51.11 – 8.51.13, that he was awaiting a response, and that he hoped to be able to present the revisions at the March Faculty Senate meeting.
- d.** The FSEC discussed the issue regarding the reporting structure of departments within schools, specifically the Harrington School of Communication and Media. The role of the Director of the School as it pertains to budgeting, promotion and tenure, and other customary department chair responsibilities was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff