FSEC Minutes January 27, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation
University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "FSEC Minutes January 27, 2017" (2017). Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas and Minutes. Paper 31.
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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #24  
January 27, 2017  
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM on Friday, January 27, 2017, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Sullivan presiding. Senators Conley, Mahler, and Tsiatas were present. Senators Byrd and Leonard were absent.

2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #23, January 20, 2017 were approved.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS
   
   a. The FSEC discussed agenda items for the upcoming January 30 meeting of the Chair and Vice Chair with the Provost.
   
   b. The FSEC discussed agenda items for the upcoming February 3 meeting with the President.
   
   c. Chairperson Sullivan noted that, at the February 23 Faculty Senate meeting, an election would take place for a Vice Chair-Chair Elect from among the returning senators.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS
   
   a. The Committee reviewed the proceedings of the January 26 Faculty Senate meeting. The Committee commented on the Senate discussion about Governor Raimondo’s proposal to expand the RI Promise program to provide two years of paid college tuition at the state's public institutions. Concerns were raised about the potential impact of the program on enrollment and class size at URI. Concern was also expressed for the potential increased pressure on students to enroll in “rescue” courses during Winter J-term noting that managing and mastering course content in a condensed, accelerated term can be a compromise to success. The additional cost to students of enrolling in Winter J-term was also noted.
   
   b. The Committee discussed the next steps, subsequent to the motion that was passed by the Senate on January 26, regarding the expansion of Faculty Senate membership to include Senior Lecturers, Teaching Professors, and Clinical faculty who had held their positions for at least 5 years. Chairperson Sullivan said that he would contact the Chair of the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual (CBUM) Committee to request the
necessary changes to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate and attendant By-Laws and University Manual changes to be presented at the February 23 Senate meeting.

c. The Committee discussed the proposed restructuring of a number of standing committees of the Senate.

d. The Committee discussed the issue regarding the establishment of schools at the institution. Chairperson Sullivan indicated that the subject would be addressed in a future meeting with the Provost.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff