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FSEC Minutes February 3, 2017

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #25
February 3, 2017
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:55 AM on Friday, February 3, 2017, in the President's Conference Room, Green Hall, Chairperson Sullivan presiding. Senators Byrd, Conley, Leonard, Mahler, and Tsiatas were present.
2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #24, January 27, 2017 were approved.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

Vice Chairperson Conley provided a summary report of his and Chairperson's Sullivan's meeting with the Provost of January 30.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

The Committee discussed a proposed restructuring of a number of standing committees of the Senate. The potential new committee configuration under consideration included:

- Curriculum and Standards, with two subcommittees, General Education and Academic Calendar
- Teaching, Advising, and Assessment
- Research and Creative Activities
- Service and Community Life
- Technology

The Committee discussed technology needs at the institution, the Information Technology Strategic Governance Committee (ITgov), the draft IT Strategic Plan, and the charge of the Senate Committee on Information Technologies, Infrastructure, Computing, Communications, and Networking (CITICCN). The Committee discussed the need for more practical, proactive support for faculty in all realms of their work. It was recommended that the charge of the new Senate technology committee include: "review and make recommendations of adequacy and anticipatory needs of IT support for instructing programs, and provide direction and fiscal recommendations for improvement." The Committee discussed the potential role of administrators on the new Senate committees as advisory in nature; it was recommended that administrative member be considered committee consultants.

5. President Dooley joined the meeting at 10:05 AM. Chairperson Sullivan acknowledged the

recent announcement by the President of the appointment of Ms. Abigail Rider to the position of Vice President for Administration and Finance. The President said that Ms. Rider had a very strong record and he was pleased that she would be joining the leadership at URI. Chairperson Sullivan asked the President to comment on Governor Raimondo's proposal to expand the RI Promise Program to provide two years of paid college tuition at the state's public institutions. The President said that the Governor's proposal reflected sound public policy because it would make higher education more affordable. He said that the Governor's proposal represented a commitment to voters, not the institution, but was consistent with the mission of the institution to offer an affordable postsecondary degree to all Rhode Island residents. Senator Mahler asked if the proposal were expected to increase enrollment at URI. The President indicated that the tuition program might result in an increased yield, the number of students who commit to attending URI by May 1, but that the General Assembly will not have approved the program by that date, so the impact this year is not certain. The President added that the institution has been engaged in ongoing planning for growth especially in graduate and international enrollments. A potential for increased undergraduate enrollment as a result of the expansion of the Promise Program has been incorporated into the planning. Given the strategy to expand the full-time faculty by 100, an enrollment of 18,000 students (not including online and certificate-only students) has been determined to be an appropriate goal designed to maintain quality delivery of academic programs and not to surpass URI's resources. Senator Leonard asked the President about recruiting international students in the current political climate. The President responded that URI has partnered with the Cambridge Education Group to facilitate international recruitment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff