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University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #31
April 14, 2017
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:47 AM on Friday, April 14, 2017, in the HELIN Conference Room in the Carothers Library, Chairperson Sullivan presiding. Senators Byrd, Conley, Leonard, Mahler, and Tsiatas were present.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

Committee members reviewed and approved the March 24 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting minutes. Senator Byrd abstained, as he was not present.

3. ONGOING BUSINESS

- a. The initial discussion concerned General Education and Curricular Affairs Committee activities. The Chair endeavored to update the full Executive Committee. The EC had broad and valuable discussions on how GE and CAC activities might link with the potential committee structure under the Kaboomian options.
- b. Chair reviewed and others engaged in discussion on the recent letter sent to the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education. There was no substantive chastisement of the Chair's word choices. Vice Chair Conley indicated that the letter had been mentioned at a meeting of the Joint Committee on Academic Planning.
- c. The Chair and Vice Chair shared tone and topic of conversations had with President Dooley and Provost DeHayes during the prior week.
- d. Nominations for the Sheila Black Grubman award for Service were discussed. Not all were able to have reviewed the packages and decision made to review and decide at meeting of April 21 if possible.
- e. Brief discussion of the Kaboomian Concept and preparation for the Senate meeting of April 20 were had. EC unified in the presentation of the new structure as proposed and limiting the committee membership as currently described.
- f. The Committee discussed the proposed new offerings in the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program and were in agreement that the appropriate procedure is for faculty to go through

their academic home outside of the Graduate School. The courses would be reviewed and approved through the usual process of these 'home' departments and colleges and then be administered by Graduate School.

- g.** The UCAS was discussed. The EC remained in agreement with the discussions and recommendations previously made to UCAS Dean Richmond. The position is that courses offered in association with UCAS must have a faculty sponsor in an academic program and may be, if desired (but not required), cross-listed with a course code from that academic program. This requirement is similar to that in the Neuroscience Program. The courses must be proposed by and approved by faculty in an academic/degree granting college and its Curricular Affairs committee before and only then affiliated with UCAS.
- h.** The proposed language resolving UMAN 8:51:11-13 was approved and will be presented to the Faculty Senate for approval.
- i.** The proposed 'Badge' program was discussed and, as presented, was not supported because there was insufficient information describing the requirements to earn a badge. The Executive Committee discussed that badges should follow the procedure of other academic credentials with course, course content, instructor, and associated materials vetted through an academic college curriculum committee following procedures similar for certificates. The time and content should be brought into alignment with other programs to be considered for listing on the transcript and in accordance with NEASC accreditation standards.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Michael Sullivan, Chairperson of the Faculty Senate