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FSEC Minutes September 19, 2016

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #10
September 19, 2016
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM on Monday, September 19, 2016, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Sullivan presiding. Senators Byrd, Conley, Mahler, and Tsiatas were present. Senator Leonard was absent.
2. Student Senate Academic Affairs Committee Chair Vanessa Garcia Polanco joined the meeting at 10:00 AM. Ms. Garcia Polanco said the Student Senate strives to be the representative voice of the student body. She said that the Academic Affairs Committee reviews academic concerns raised by students and wanted to join with the Faculty Senate in addressing the subject of academic complaints. She provided the FSEC members with the background regarding a process established by the Student Senate to receive academic complaints and concerns from students (the platform for the system is available online through the Student Senate website). She asked the FSEC to encourage faculty to add the following statement to their syllabi:

“The URI Student Senate Academic Affairs Committee advises students on academic rights and facilitates solutions to academic issues between faculty and administrators when students are unable to do so. Students have the right to submit concerns and complaints to the committee in order to facilitate conflict resolution and communicate student perspective on all matters relating to academic issues. Students can submit their concerns online at: <http://web.uri.edu/studentsenate/academiccomplaints/>”.

Discussion followed. Ms. Garcia Polanco was asked to describe the number and kind of complaints received. She said that the most common complaint involved the final exam schedule. She asked the FSEC to also encourage faculty to add the Academic Exam Rights statement to their syllabi (<http://web.uri.edu/studentsenate/academic-exam-rights/>). FSEC members noted that the recommended faculty policy portion of the syllabus is already lengthy and discussed other options for disseminating the information including through SAKAI. The FSEC expressed concern for use of the language “facilitate conflict resolution” and discussed the role of the University Ombudsman. Ms. Garcia Polanco informed the FSEC that the Student Senate was also working on improving student employment and the affordability of books through the Bookstore. Ms. Garcia Polanco left the meeting at 10:45 AM.

3. Minutes from FSEC meeting #9, September 12, 2016 were approved.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

- a.** The FSEC discussed assessment of the new General Education Program and reviewed the charge of the General Education Committee including its responsibility to appoint a faculty subcommittee on General Education Assessment (SAGE). The Committee questioned if the current work of SAGE to assess courses in the new program were being carried out under the auspices of the General Education Committee. Discussion followed. The membership of the subcommittee was reviewed.

- b.** The FSEC discussed the topic of program assessment and questioned how the data are used to benefit programs. The FSEC asserted that, in the interest of efficiency, a program that meets the standards of an extramural certification, licensing, or accrediting body should not also be required to submit assessment data at the institutional level. Chairperson Sullivan offered to draft a statement for review by the other members.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff