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University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #13
October 17, 2016
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM on Monday, October 17, 2016, in the President's Conference Room, Green Hall, Chairperson Sullivan presiding. Senators Byrd, Conley, Leonard, Mahler, and Tsiatas were present.
2. Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Libutti joined the meeting at 10 AM to discuss recently proposed changes to the transfer policy (Policy for Articulation and Transfer Between Public Institutions of Higher Education In Rhode Island) recommended by Commissioner Purcell. The Provost and the FSEC shared similar concerns for some of the details of the proposed revisions: uniformity of general education programs among the three institutions, the acceptance of a grade of D for transfer credit (currently the threshold is a grade of C); a common course numbering system, and the unintended consequences of encouraging all students at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) to earn an Associate's degree before transferring to URI. Vice Provost Libutti informed the FSEC that URI yields 450-500 transfer students every fall and an additional 200 students in the spring semester; approximately 80% of Rhode Island students transfer from CCRI. He said that URI maintains the [RI transfer website](#), an informational resource to aid in the efficient facilitation of transfers among the three state institutions, and URI's University College offers assistance through its [Transfer Center](#). The Vice Provost added that URI works proactively in many ways to make transfer to URI as easy as possible. Discussion followed. It was noted that one barrier to efficiency in the three school system is the lack of a common student information system (URI and RIC use *PeopleSoft*; CCRI uses *Banner*). The Provost suggested that the Provost's Office and the FSEC respond jointly in writing and ask the Commissioner to meet to discuss both their concerns and the opportunity to further enhance the pathway for transfer students in the higher education systems in RI. Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Libutti left the meeting at 11:22 AM.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
Chairperson Sullivan reported that he had been contacted by Senator Kirschenbaum who was concerned about recent news regarding Open Educational Resources. He said that his subsequent inquiries has led him to understand that Governor Raimondo has encouraged the institutions to explore options to make materials more affordable, that there is a pilot program for URI faculty who wish to participate, but that URI has not committed to any mandated initiative.
4. **Ongoing Business**

Chairperson Sullivan noted the ongoing issues with Senate committee membership. Discussion followed. The Chair also expressed concern for the piecemeal development of course offerings outside of the establishment of a for-credit degree program.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff