

2016

FSEC Minutes October 24, 2016

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #14
October 24, 2016
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM on Monday, October 24, 2016, in Library Conference Room, Chairperson Sullivan presiding. Senators Byrd, Conley, Leonard, and Mahler were present. Senator Tsiatas was absent.
2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #12, October 3, 2016 were approved as amended.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

Committee members were reminded that the General Education Committee had invited the Subcommittee on the Assessment of General Education (SAGE) to its next meeting on November 3.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

- a. The FSEC discussed ongoing concerns about program assessment and the assessment of the general education program in particular. The complexity of the requirements was viewed as a barrier to compliance. The Committee also discussed the possibility that a “capstone” course that meets program accreditation requirements and that has been approved as an Integrative general education course might be recommended for changes through the general education assessment process. Committee members viewed this possibility as an unintended consequence of the assessment process.
- b. The FSEC discussed concerns about the functionality of committees of the Senate. The increasing difficulty in engaging faculty to chair committees, the increasing reliance on Senate Office staff to process committee materials and prepare committee reports to the Senate, and the loss of focus, in some instances, on committee charge was viewed as problematic. The FSEC discussed its own leadership role and responsibility for the development of an efficient and effective system. Vice Chairperson Conley indicated that he has started to work on compiling Senate committee duties in order to realign some of the charges into new structures.
- c. Chairperson Sullivan enumerated other ongoing issues including the concern for the composition and function of the Advising Committee, the need to study the strategic role

of lecturers and other non-tenure track faculty in the system of self-governance, and the charge to revise sections 8.51.11 – 13 of the University Manual. Discussion followed.

- d. Agenda items for the November 17 Faculty Senate meeting were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff