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FSEC Minutes November 28, 2016

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #19
November 28, 2016
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM on Monday, November 28, 2016, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Sullivan presiding. Senators Byrd, Conley, Leonard, Mahler, and Tsiatas were present.
2. Minutes from FSEC Meetings #16 November 7 and #18 November 21, 2016 were approved.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
Chairperson Sullivan reported that he had met with Professor Wenisch, Chair of the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee, to discuss changes to the Senate membership and the impact on the By-Laws and Constitution of the Faculty Senate.
4. **ONGOING BUSINESS**
 - a. The Committee discussed the motion, approved at the November 17 Faculty Senate meeting, charging the FSEC with making a recommendation to the Senate regarding full-time non tenure-track faculty eligibility to serve on the Faculty Senate as well as on Faculty Senate committees after a minimum of one academic year in their faculty positions. The Committee considered expanding Senate membership to Senior Lecturers, Teaching Professors, and to Clinical professors (all ranks) employed in their positions for a minimum of 5 years. The need and motivation for including these members of the non tenure-track faculty in the Senate and the impact of their membership on Senate business was discussed. FSEC members expressed concern for the potential that faculty whose job responsibilities do not include research would be making decisions for faculty who are required to perform research. The Committee discussed concerns that differences in the level of training, experience, and job responsibilities of non tenure-track faculty could potentially adversely impact the research community and the ability of the research enterprise to continue to support the institution. It was noted that part of the value of research is its potential to inform curriculum development and that the base of knowledge about curriculum can differ between tenure-track and non tenure-track faculty. The Committee discussed the value of service, the level of interest on the part of tenure-track faculty in performing service, and the meaningfulness of Senate work. It was suggested that Executive Committee members confer with their constituents in their respective colleges regarding the issue of expanding Senate membership.

- b. The FSEC discussed committee composition and the motion, approved at the November 17 Faculty Senate meeting, to propose a plan to change the status of Senate committee members not elected or appointed by degree-granting colleges or by the University Library to *ex officio* non-voting members (not to include student members). The Committee discussed their concern about the lack of adherence, in some colleges, to the requirement that faculty be elected to the college curriculum committee (per University Manual 4.50.10). Chairperson Sullivan said that he has requested an opportunity to present this concern at a meeting of the Council of Deans.
- c. The Committee discussed the motion, approved at the November 17 Faculty Senate meeting, charging the FSEC with clarifying the process for the management, operation, and structure of “schools” at the University.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

The meeting was reconvened at 2:00 PM in the President’s Conference Room, Green Hall. Senators Mahler and Tsiatas were absent. Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Beauvais joined the meeting at 2:11 PM. The following matters were addressed:

1. The motion from the November 17, 2016 Faculty Senate meeting charging the FSEC with developing a proposal to change the status of Senate committee members not elected or appointed by degree-granting colleges or by the University Library to *ex officio* non-voting members was discussed. It was suggested that a clearer set of expectations be established for administrative members of Senate committees. Chairperson Sullivan said that faculty have expressed concerns to him that administrators, by virtue of their positions, can inadvertently influence committee decisions differently than faculty. Particular concern had been expressed for the perceived differences in authority between faculty and administrators on committees that include lecturers. The Provost expressed concern for the implications to the principle of shared governance. Discussion followed.
2. The FSEC discussed with the Provost its response to the request by the College of Pharmacy that all full-time non tenure-track faculty be eligible for Faculty Senate membership and committee membership. The Committee informed the Provost that they were considering the question of expanding Senate membership to Senior Lecturers, Teaching Professors, and to Clinical professors (all ranks) employed in their positions for a minimum of 5 years. The FSEC indicated that it was attempting to review the longer-term impacts and anticipate the unintended consequences of including non tenure-track faculty in Senate decision-making. The Provost indicated that non tenure-track faculty play an important role at the institution and that the processes embedded in the formal mechanism of shared governance should not exclude them. Concerns raised by the FSEC focused on the differences in expectations and responsibilities between tenure-track and non tenure-track faculty.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff