

2016

## FSEC Minutes December 5, 2016

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #20**  
**December 5, 2016**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM on Monday, December 5, 2016, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Sullivan presiding. Senators Byrd, Conley, Leonard, Mahler, and Tsiatas were present.
2. **ONGOING BUSINESS**
  - a. The Committee discussed its response to the motion, approved at the November 17 Faculty Senate meeting, charging the FSEC with making a recommendation to the Senate allowing full-time non tenure-track faculty to be eligible to serve on the Faculty Senate as well as on Faculty Senate committees. Chairperson Sullivan projected Power Point slides that he intended to present at the December 8 Faculty Senate meeting as a means of informing the Senate of the Committee's response to the charge. The Committee discussed the rationale for considering expanding Senate membership to include Senior Lecturers, Teaching Professors, and Clinical professors employed in their positions for a minimum of 5 years. The stipulation that Clinical professors be employed for a minimum of 5 years to be eligible for Senate membership was intended to create consistency with the AAUP contract requirements of promotion of a Lecturer to Senior Lecturer. Members noted the need for a thorough discussion in the Senate of the implications and possible unintended consequences of expanding Senate eligibility to faculty whose appointments were less secure and whose responsibilities differed from those of the tenure-track faculty. Concerns were raised about the impetus for the move to include non tenure-track faculty in the Senate and that it reflected more a diminution of the value of service and less the need for inclusion. The Committee further discussed its plans for the presentation at the December 8 Faculty Senate meeting. Chairperson Sullivan said that he would urge Senators to confer with their constituents regarding the issue of expanding Senate membership.
  - b. The FSEC discussed [University Manual sections 8.51.11 – 8.51.13](#) concerning planned and unexpected student absences from classes or examinations. In 2015-2016, the Senate had approved changes to 8.51.11 ([Bill #2015-16-30](#)) that were subsequently not approved by the President. The Executive Committee had been asked to revise section 8.51.11 separating the contingencies surrounding a planned absence from those applied to an unexpected absence, resulting from a serious matter.

- c. The FSEC discussed the restructuring of a number of standing committees of the Senate. The issue of the voting rights of committee members not elected by colleges or the Library would be considered in the new structures. Chairperson Sullivan suggested that the reformulation of committees be ready for presentation to the Senate at its February meeting.
  
- d. 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. It was reported that faculty have questions about the reporting structure, the decision-making authority, and the autonomy of units described as “schools.” Discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff