

2016

## FSEC Minutes December 12, 2016

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #21**  
**December 12, 2016**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM on Monday, December 12, 2016, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Sullivan presiding. Senators Byrd, Conley, Leonard, Mahler, and Tsiatas were present.
2. Minutes from FSEC meetings #19, November 28 and #20, December 5, 2016 were approved.
3. **ONGOING BUSINESS**
  - a. The Committee reviewed the proceedings of the December 8 Faculty Senate meeting and the discussion to allow full-time non tenure-track faculty to be eligible to serve on the Faculty Senate as well as on Faculty Senate committees. Chairperson Sullivan said that he had asked Vice Provost Katz to provide additional faculty data including a recent history of the numbers of tenure-track and non tenure-track faculty at the institution and projections over the next 3 years of the numbers of non tenure-track faculty at all levels (promotions of Lecturers). The Committee discussed the impact of expanding Senate membership on the size of the Faculty Senate and the relationship between the size of the body and its effectiveness. The Committee discussed the question, if the proposal were to be approved, of establishing tenure-track vs. non tenure-track faculty ratios by college or a cap on non tenure-track faculty membership. In consideration of the framing of the proposal to include full-time non tenure-track faculty as an issue of fair representation, the Committee discussed the need for representation of the part-time faculty. The Committee examined the broader issues of workload, the demands of committee work (service), and the challenge of attracting faculty to serve on the Senate and on committees in the context of increasing numbers of non tenure-track hires.
  - b. The FSEC discussed [University Manual sections 8.51.11 – 8.51.13](#). In 2015-2016, the Senate-approved changes to 8.51.11 ([Bill #2015-16-30](#)) 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. The following changes were proposed to address the administration's concern (**bold is new language, cross-out is deleted language**):

**8.51.13** When serious illness, accident, personal tragedy, or other serious matters prevent students from attending classes, taking examinations, or meeting deadlines, the instructor(s) concerned shall offer the student **one of the following options:**

**a. the same quiz, test, or examination to be administered either before or after the normally scheduled time;**

**b. a comparable alternative quiz, test, or examination to be administered either before or after the scheduled time**

**c. an alternative weighting of the remaining evaluative components of the course**

~~an alternative listed in section 8.51.11.~~ Disagreements over the seriousness of an illness, accident, personal tragedy, or other serious matter may need to be mediated by the concerned instructor's department chair, dean, or eventually the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Either students or their instructors may seek such mediation. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs shall decide the matter and his/her decision shall be final.

Chairperson Sullivan said that he would discuss the proposed changes with the Provost.

- c. The FSEC discussed the restructuring of 9 of the standing committees of the Senate, reducing the number to 6 committees. The issue of the voting rights of committee members not elected by colleges or the Library would be considered in the new structures. Senator Leonard suggested that reorganizing committee responsibilities into new structures could be addressed separately from the issue of the status of administrative committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff