

2016

## FSEC Minutes December 19, 2016

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #22**  
**December 19, 2016**  
**MINUTES**

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM on Monday, December 19, 2016, in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Sullivan presiding. Senators Byrd, Conley, Leonard, Mahler, and Tsiatas were present.
2. Minutes from FSEC meeting #21, December 12, 2016 were approved.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
  - a. The FSEC discussed potential members of the 2017-18 Nominating Committee whose names would be submitted to the Faculty Senate on January 26.
  - b. The FSEC confirmed the date of its next meeting, Friday, January 20, 8:45 AM noting that the Faculty Senate agenda is due to be distributed on that day.

**4. ONGOING BUSINESS**

The Committee discussed the issue of changing the membership of the Faculty Senate by expanding eligibility to full-time non tenure-track faculty, specifically Senior Lecturers, Teaching Professors, and Clinical professors. Chairperson Sullivan said that Vice Provost Katz would soon provide a recent history of the numbers of tenure-track and non tenure-track faculty and projections over the next 3 years of the numbers of non tenure-track faculty at all levels (including promotions). The Committee discussed whether the impetus to expand the Senate stemmed from a concern about a lack of representation of non tenure-track faculty or if it were the consequence of disinterest on the part of tenure-track faculty to serve in the Senate. The role of a senator as a representative of all faculty in his/her department and college was discussed. The FSEC considered the mission of teaching, research, and service across all colleges at URI and noted the important connection between research and teaching. Concerns were expressed about the unintended consequences of placing responsibility for decisions about curriculum and the research enterprise on faculty who do not engage in research. Members asked Chairperson Sullivan if he would ask for additional data from the Provost's Office documenting the trends in tenure-track and non tenure-track faculty hires relative to enrollment over the last 20 years. Chairperson Sullivan said that he would follow up. The FSEC discussed limiting the numbers of non tenure-track faculty in

the Senate and whether or not the size of the body should be maintained at its current size. Chairperson Sullivan said that the issue of changing the membership would be on the January 26 Faculty Senate agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff