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FSEC Minutes February 19, 2016

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #23
February 19, 2016**

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM on Friday, February 19, 2016, in the President's Conference Room, Chairperson Rollo-Koster presiding. Senators Kusz, Rarick, and Welters were present. Senators Sullivan and Tsiatas were absent.
2. Minutes of FSEC Meeting #22, February 12, 2016 were approved as amended.

3. ONGOING BUSINESS

The FSEC reviewed the proceedings and discussions that had taken place at the Faculty Senate Meeting held the previous day (February 18, 2016). They discussed various methods of distributing the referendum question (electronic ballot) to the General Faculty.

4. Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Beauvais were welcomed to the meeting at 8:30 AM and the following matters were discussed:
 - a. Chairperson Rollo-Koster and the Provost discussed the recommendation of the General Education Implementation Steering Team (GEIST) in its final report (February 1, 2016) to consider charging Vice Provost Beauvais with overseeing the completion of the general education implementation tasks. The FSEC, the Provost, and the Vice Provost agreed to the recommendation. The Vice Provost would assume transitional leadership, effective as soon as an announcement could be made, until the appointment of a General Education Director. Discussion followed about the search committee for the Director and shared staff support for the position. The Provost said that he hoped that the position would be filled by July 1. Vice Provost Beauvais re-distributed the draft of the position description and asked the FSEC to review it for any final changes.
 - b. Chairperson Rollo-Koster asked the Provost about the impact of college and department (faculty) re-organization (as a result of the creation of the Health Collaborative and the College of Education and Professional Studies) on the 2016-2017 Senate apportionment. Because the Senate elections would take place prior to the effective date of the re-organization and because the University was engaged in multiple faculty searches, the Provost suggested that

departments remain aligned with their existing, 2015-2016 colleges. The FSEC agreed.

- c. Chairperson Rollo-Koster asked the Provost about the process of review of curricular program proposals by the Office of the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education. Chairperson Rollo-Koster noted that the current curricular regulations issued in 2006 by the former Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education have not been changed nor replaced. However, recently, some faculty who had prepared program proposals according to the regulations, which were subsequently fully approved by the Faculty Senate, were required to re-submit their proposals on different forms. The Provost and Vice Provost indicated that they would clarify the procedures and communicate any changes to the Faculty Senate Office so that faculty would have access to accurate proposal preparation instructions.
- d. The Provost was asked about the revised overhead distribution plan for FY17 made available on January 29 by Vice President Sonnenfeld. Chairperson Rollo-Koster said that faculty had questioned the decrease in percentages to the colleges and the increase in percentages to Sponsored Research Administration. Discussion followed about the staff required for pre- and post-award support. Chairperson Rollo-Koster indicated that she would follow up with Vice President Valentino and Vice President Sonnenfeld.
- e. The Provost was asked about the monies remaining in the URI Innovation with Impact Fund that had been announced at the Academic Summit (January 22, 2016). The Provost said that \$90,000 remained in the fund. He said that the Joint Committee on Academic Planning (JCAP) would issue an RFP in March soliciting proposals for innovative ideas aligned with the new 2016-2021 Academic Strategic Plan. The funds would be awarded to two or three highly innovative ideas/projects/ programs.
- f. The Provost raised the issue of addressing Goal 5 of the 2016-2021 Academic Strategic Plan, "Streamlining Processes to Improve Effectiveness." He suggested that a small steering group be formed to organize and implement a strategy to streamline processes at the university. The steering committee would explore alternative models that might be considered for the organization and delivery of services. In addition, the steering group would form task forces that would be charged with review of individual processes. The FSEC was reminded that this effort stems from the work of the Administration Management Review Committee (AMRC) that produced a report in 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff