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FSEC Minutes April 8, 2016

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #27
April 8, 2016**

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM on Friday, April 8, 2016, in the President's Conference Room, Green Hall, Chairperson Rollo-Koster presiding. Senators Kusz, Rarick, Sullivan, Tsiatas, and Welters were present. Vice Chairperson-elect Conley was also in attendance.
2. Minutes of FSEC Meeting #26, April 1, 2016 were approved.
3. **ONGOING BUSINESS**
 - a. The FSEC discussed the Administrator Evaluation process and the disposition of the final report of the evaluation of the President.
 - b. The FSEC discussed the changes to Chapter 8 of the University Manual approved by the Faculty Senate at their March 31 meeting.
 - c. Chairperson Rollo-Koster reported on the meeting of the performance-based funding task force, which had met recently with Commissioner Purcell. She shared a handout from the recent meeting delineating the performance measures that are under consideration for URI. Discussion followed.
 - d. The Committee discussed potential problems with the Integrate and Apply Student Learning Outcome, one of the 12 outcomes around which the new General Education Program is designed. Not all departments will be able to apply their capstone courses to the Integrate and Apply rubric without potentially compromising accreditation standards.
4. Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Beauvais were welcomed to the meeting at 8:40 AM and the following matters were discussed:
 - a. Chairperson Rollo-Koster reported to the Provost the discussions from the recent performance-based funding meeting. The Provost indicated that he planned to meet with the Commissioner soon to discuss concerns.

- b. The Provost was informed that the 2015 Faculty Outstanding Service Award recipient had not yet received the award funds (\$2000). He said he would follow up with the Vice Provost for Academic Finances and Academic Personnel. The FSEC asked if future awards could be made in cash, not operating dollars. The Provost said he would explore that possibility.
- c. The FSEC asked the Provost about the Phase II Innovation Fund Initiative. The Provost said that he anticipated that a subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Academic Planning (JCAP) would be responsible for reviewing and evaluating the proposals. A rubric, based on the RFP, would be used in the evaluation. He added that the plan was to fund up to three innovative ideas from the available \$90,000. No awards would be made if none of the ideas were truly innovative.
- d. The FSEC discussed with the Provost the ongoing search for the Director of General Education and the anticipated role of the new position. The Provost said that he hoped that the FSEC and the Director would adopt a 3-5 year vision of the position. He said that there was an opportunity for a creative leader to engage with the faculty in a way that would engender a new view of general education. Discussion followed.
- e. The Provost informed the FSEC that a request had been made to the Strategic Budget and Planning Council (SBPC) for funds to support a Director of Undergraduate Research. If approved by the SBPC, the funds would be part of the FY18 budget. Discussion followed about the value of such an initiative at the state's flagship research institution. The Committee was informed that this initiative was one among many recommendations made by an ad hoc committee that produced a report in June 2015 titled Academic Support for High Achieving Students. Vice Provost Beauvais forwarded the report electronically to the FSEC members. The Provost indicated that support staff for the Director of Undergraduate Research could be shared with the Director of General Education.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff