

2016

FSEC Minutes April 15, 2016

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #28
April 15, 2016**

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM on Friday, April 15, 2016, in the President's Conference Room, Green Hall, Chairperson Rollo-Koster presiding. Senators Kusz, Rarick, Sullivan, and Tsiatas were present
2. The Committee finalized the selection of the Sheila Black Grubman Faculty Outstanding Service Award recipient. Discussion followed about improving the process for next year.
3. Senator Welters and Vice Chairperson-elect Conley joined the meeting.
4. Minutes of FSEC Meeting #27, April 8, 2016 were approved as amended.
5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
 - a. FSEC members confirmed their availability for upcoming meetings with candidates for the Dean of the College of Health Sciences.
 - b. The FSEC discussed the proposed changes to the membership of the Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) submitted as part of the CAC Report to the Senate for the April 21st meeting. The Committee decided that Senate committee membership changes as a result of the college reorganizations should be proposed in the next academic year. Many college ballots have been prepared based on the existing membership and college allocation of representatives.
6. Athletic Director Bjorn and Professor Harps-Logan, Chair of the Athletics Advisory Board (AAB), were welcomed to the meeting at 9:00 AM. They provided the Committee with an overview of the athletic program: 500 student athletes, 18 varsity sports, and 22 teams. They discussed with the Committee the systems and practices that are in place that support the academic success of student athletes and their progress toward degree completion. Five dedicated academic advisors in University College and a student athlete advisory committee (peer advisors) were cited as effective resources that offer support to athletes. Challenges for the athletic programs were discussed. These include scheduling games and travel in order to minimize missed class time, accommodating schedule changes due to weather

(especially problematic in the spring semester), administering exams during travel, and meeting other metrics. The FSEC suggested that faculty be informed before the start of or early in a semester if student athletes are registered in their classes (name and sport). This would permit faculty to better adapt their exam schedules to avoid conflicts with scheduled games and travel. The FSEC also suggested that the athletic programs advocate for the development and availability of a university Testing Center to facilitate make-up exams. Additional suggestions included improving communications between faculty and a student's athletic program, increased advocacy for contact with students' faculty advisors, and improving the culture surrounding student understanding of academic responsibility. AAB Chairperson Harps-Logan indicated that the AAB could consider addressing these issues through a subcommittee. Athletic Director Bjorn shared with the FSEC an idea for maximizing use of Meade Stadium by installing artificial turf and lighting. The funding for the project is under consideration by the administration who has consulted with the Student Senate on the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff