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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #10
September 30, 2015 2:30 PM**

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 PM on Wednesday, September 30, 2015 in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Rollo-Koster presiding. Senators Kusz, Rarick, Sullivan, Tsiatas and Welters were present.
2. Minutes of FSEC Meeting #9, September 23, 2015 were approved as amended.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
 - a. The Committee was informed that a forum discussion on 2016-2021 Academic Plan would take place at the October 15 Faculty Senate Meeting.
 - b. The FSEC noted with appreciation that the President had offered to host the post-Senate Meeting reception at his house on October 15.
 - c. The FSEC noted that a forum on the merger of the School of Education and the College of Continuing Education was scheduled for October 21, 3 – 5 PM, in the Galanti Lounge.
 - d. Disability Services provided a copy of its new Service Dog policy to FSEC members in August.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. The FSEC discussed agenda items for upcoming meetings with the Provost and with the President.
 - b. The Committee discussed recent, multiple, classroom technology failures experienced first-hand. Discussion followed regarding the need for the University to add support personnel to adequately maintain and troubleshoot classroom technology and to maintain basic systems in buildings.
 - c. The Committee discussed class scheduling difficulties and classes that meet in non-standard timeframes. A course scheduled in a non-standard time can hinder accessibility to other courses for some students.

- d. The Committee discussed the plural roles of Senate leadership: maintaining representation of the Senate as a whole while simultaneously holding individual college or department level views. Members agreed that, in public settings, a best practice is to declare which view is being expressed prior to speaking during Senate meetings.
- e. The FSEC discussed the increasing pressure on committees to work throughout the calendar year combined with decreasing faculty volunteerism. It was noted that faculty experience frustration when the time spent in committee work seems to accomplish little.
- f. The FSEC discussed absentee voting in the Senate and on Senate committees. The Committee affirmed that Senators need to be witness to debate and should be present to participate.
- g. The FSEC discussed moving the location of Faculty Senate meetings to a room that would accommodate electronic participation from remote locations. Chairperson Rollo-Koster had contacted the College of Pharmacy regarding Pharmacy Room 170. The response indicated that the room is not available. The room is equipped with highly specialized technology that is essential for the core pharmacy classes that meet Monday-Thursday until 4 PM. Other possibilities were suggested: CBLS Room 10 or a future location in the new Chemistry building.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff