

2015

FSEC Minutes November 4, 2015

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #15
November 4, 2015**

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:40 PM on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 in Library B, Chairperson Rollo-Koster presiding. Senators Kusz, Rarick, Sullivan, Tsiatas, and Welters were present.
2. Minutes of FSEC Meeting #14, October 28, 2015 were approved as amended.
3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**
 - a. Chairperson Rollo-Koster reminded the Committee that Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Beauvais would be joining the meeting.
 - b. Chairperson Rollo-Koster and Vice Chairperson Welters reported on their meeting with the President of October 30.
 - c. Vice Chairperson Welters reported that the College of Business had voted to accept the transfer of the Department of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, and Design.
4. **ONGOING BUSINESS**
 - a. The FSEC discussed concerns about students' posting course materials, class notes, and copies or photos of examinations on public, third party websites, e.g., *Quizlet*. Chairperson Rollo-Koster said that she includes a statement on her syllabi prohibiting such practices. Her primary concern, she said, is violation of intellectual property rights. Senator Sullivan reported that he had talked informally with URI General Counsel, Mr. Saccoccio, regarding the issue. The discussion, among Committee members, expanded to include concerns about use of filming or recording devices by students in class not associated with accommodations of disabilities. The FSEC decided to formally request information from Mr. Saccoccio and encourage establishing a university policy on these matters if state law is not adequate.
 - b. Vice Chairperson Welters reported that the Joint Committee on Academic Planning (JCAP) was planning to present a resolution to the Faculty Senate on November 19 seeking support of the goals of the Academic Strategic Plan 2016-2021. She asked FSEC

members for input regarding potential presenters at the Annual Academic Summit scheduled for January 22, 2016.

- c. FSEC members reviewed the faculty nominations to the administrator evaluation committees of Vice Provost Beauvais and Dean Kirby. Some selections were made.
5. Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Beauvais joined the meeting at 3:20 PM. The following matters were discussed:
- a. Provost DeHayes announced that he had appointed Interim Dean Larrat as Dean of the College of Pharmacy effective immediately. The Provost said that he had met with the Office of Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Diversity and leadership in the URI Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) regarding the process and approval of waivers. He told FSEC members that he had solicited input from faculty and staff in the College and had considered input from the College accreditation review of the interim dean. All had been supportive of the decision.
 - b. Chairperson Rollo-Koster asked the Provost about the plans to hire a Director of General Education. The Provost said that appointment of a faculty member to the half-time position would be made after a campus-wide search. Vice Provost Beauvais distributed a draft of the position description and asked the FSEC to review it and propose any necessary changes. The Provost explained that a proposal to fund the position had been presented to the Strategic Budget and Planning Council (SBPC) but had not been supported at the time because the general education program was still in an implementation phase. He said that he is proceeding, regardless, to appoint a director in January (2016). Initially, there will not be resources for support staff but he will re-propose the General Education Center/Institute for Innovation to the SBPC this year.
 - c. The FSEC expressed their concerns to the Provost about students' posting course materials, class notes, and copies or photos of examinations on public, third party websites, like *Quizlet*. The Committee indicated that they planned to consult Mr. Saccoccio, General Counsel. The Provost concurred, and said that including instructor policies about these issues on course syllabi is an advantage for the instructor. The FSEC discussed their concerns about use of filming or recording devices in the classroom. It was suggested that both the University Manual and the Student Handbook be reviewed regarding these issues.
 - d. Chairperson Rollo-Koster asked the Provost about the recent change in the procedure for obtaining faculty development (travel) funds that requires an application at least 6 months in advance of the trip. The Chair said that she and many of her colleagues do not know that far in advance if their work has been accepted. This new procedure would exclude her from eligibility for the money. The Provost explained that \$15K is derived from the AAUP and that the Alumni Association matches that amount. Vice Provost Beauvais explained that the recent change in procedure is the result of attempting to adhere to the regulations of the Alumni Association, which differ from those of the rest

of the University. The Provost said that he is sensitive to the problem and trying to resolve it.

- e. The Provost asked the Committee for its interpretation of University Manual Sections 8.51.11 and 8.51.13 regarding, specifically, options for examinations missed as a result of student absences due to illness, accident, or other serious matter. The FSEC reviewed the language and discussed its intent. The Provost asked if a department is in violation of the Manual if it does not offer make-up examinations. The FSEC responded that a no-make up policy is in conflict with the University Manual. A discussion followed about course syllabi and faculty policies. The FSEC agreed that a review of syllabus requirements or best practices should be considered. The Provost informed the Committee that there have been discussions about creating a Testing Center for administration of exams to students outside of class time. The FSEC responded that such a resource would be highly valuable especially in meeting testing accommodations for students with disabilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff