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FSEC Minutes August 25, 2014

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes #9

August 25, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM on Monday, August 25, 2014 in the President's Conference Room, Green Hall. Present: Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Beauvais, Chairperson Nassersharif, Senators Cerbo, Rollo Koster, Rarick, and Sullivan. Senator Welters was absent.

The following items were discussed:

1. Chairperson Nassersharif confirmed that Provost DeHayes would present a report to the constituency of administrators evaluated in 2013-14 at the October 16, 2014 General Faculty-Graduate Faculty meeting. Provost DeHayes agreed that half an hour would be adequate and those being evaluated were welcome to attend.

2. Chairperson Nassersharif introduced discussion of the formation of the Committee on Information Technologies, Infrastructure, Computing, Communications, and Networking (CITICCN). Chairperson Nassersharif stressed that the focus of CITICCN will be academic and research, not administrative issues.

Provost DeHayes expressed concern about the language "this committee shall develop a strategic plan..."Provost DeHayes re-emphasized that the University, as recommended by the AMRC, is currently seeking a consultant to lead the university forward in its IT goals and vision. The FSEC agreed to review the charge of CITICCN to reflect that it would "contribute to the development of a strategic plan..." Vice Provost Beauvais suggested a clarification of the relationship of CITICCN with the Joint Committee for Online and Distance Learning.

Provost DeHayes discussed the formation of the Information Technology Review Steering Committee, charged with developing an IT Strategic and Operational Plan, determining an organizational structure for Information Technology at URI, establishing and initiating a business process re-design, and identifying appropriate IT governance structures. The Information Technology Review Steering Committee will work directly with the consultant. The Information Technology Review Steering Committee is an ad hoc committee. The Provost distributed handouts including a membership list of the committee.

There was discussion of whether the Information Technology Review Steering Committee and CITICCN should be merged into one committee. As the Information Technology Review Steering Committee is focused on business services, and CITICCN will be focused on academics and research, the committees will have some overlap but will work parallel to one another.

Provost DeHayes also discussed the formation of the URI Web Policy Council currently under consideration. This council would be charged with overseeing all aspects of the university's web presence. Handouts were provided by the Provost, which included membership information. Discussion by the FSEC stressed the importance and need for practical help in developing and maintaining websites, and a continuity between appearances and content on the university's websites. Provost DeHayes assured the FSEC that the URI Web Council would be responsible for ensuring continuity in organization, content, and structure.

In response to a duplication of charges and responsibilities and the number of committees, Chairman Nassersharif said that he had verified with President Dooley that the Information

Resources Council (IRC) listed in the University Manual is not an active committee, and the University Manual would need to be updated.

3. Provost DeHayes was asked about the procedure followed when appointing the Dean of the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Continuing Education. He told the FSEC that the appointment was a 2-year limited appointment. He explained that limited appointments are handled in the same manner as Interim Appointments. After receiving permission from Human Resources, he had made an open call for nominations, screened the nominations, made selections for interviews, and, after the interviews, made the appointment. He said that search committees are not convened for interim positions.

As there is a possible reorganization of the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Continuing Education and the School of Education, a limited position was preferred over an interim position.

Chairperson Nassersharif expressed concern about of the lack of communication surrounding the appointment. Provost DeHayes stated that he had held two open meetings with College of Continuing Education.

4. Chairperson Nassersharif explained that Faculty Senate has no independent budget for Senate receptions, guests, or refreshments. He asked the Provost if he would support the Faculty Senate doing some fund raising for foundation funds. The Chairperson explained that currently the Chair of the Executive Committee asks the deans to sponsor the receptions after the Senate meetings. Provost DeHayes recommended that Chairperson Nassersharif attend a Dean's Council meeting and approach the colleges with specific dates. The Provost also indicated that he liked the idea of the colleges being a cooperative entity in the sponsoring of the receptions. He was not opposed to Faculty Senate doing fundraising, suggesting that the President also be consulted. Senator Sullivan pointed out that if the Faculty Senate had an independent foundation fund, colleges would be able to transfer funds from their foundation accounts, simplifying the process.

5. Provost DeHayes expressed two primary concerns regarding the construction project in Washburn Hall: that the work was behind schedule and the lack of communication. He was concerned that updates were reactive rather than proactive. He said that he understood the frustration and believed that a URI point person would be useful. Vice Provost Beauvais inquired if the FSEC had met with Vice President for Administration and Finance Christina Valentino directly about this issue. She recommended the FSEC consider meeting with the other Vice Presidents at least once per semester. Chairperson Nassersharif and the Provost agreed with that suggestion.

6. Vice Provost Beauvais announced that the International Center (Office of International Education, Study Abroad), directed by Dania Brandford-Calvo, would be administratively transferred from University College for Academic Success to the Provost's Office. Director Brandford-Calvo will work in conjunction with Nancy Stricklin, Assistant Provost for Global Strategies and Academic Partnerships under the supervision of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. They will develop a strategy for increasing international education opportunities, partnerships in teaching and research, and for bringing international students here to URI.

7. Provost DeHayes announced that Mark Higgins, Dean of the College of Business Administration will be leaving the University in January, 2015. He will begin the search for a new dean at the start of the fall semester and expressed optimism a permanent dean will be in place by fall 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Lawrence