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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes #10

August 28, 2014

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM on Thursday, August 28, 2014 in the President's Conference Room, Green Hall. Chairperson Nassersharif presiding. Senators Cerbo, Rollo Koster, Rarick, and Sullivan were present. Senator Welters was absent.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

Chairperson Nassersharif and Vice Chair Rollo Koster announced that the New Faculty Orientation on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 had gone well and that they had been able to converse with several new faculty members about the Faculty Senate.

3. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. The FSEC committee discussed the meeting with the Provost, held on August 25, 2014. They reviewed the Provost's suggested changes to the description of the proposed Committee on Information Technologies, Infrastructure, Computing, Communications, and Networking (CITICCN) and made revisions accordingly. Chairperson Nassersharif noted that the FSEC would be discussing the proposed Committee on Information Technologies (CITICCN) with the President. He said that he would suggest to the President deletion from the University Manual of the Information Resources Council (IRC), a Presidential committee. Discussion ensued regarding faculty needs in the area of technological support.

b. Chairperson Nassersharif discussed the proposal to remove the charge pertaining to University College from the University Manual description of the University College and General Education Committee (UCGE). This proposed change had been reviewed and approved in concept by Dean Richmond and Vice Provost Beauvais. The Vice Provost and the Dean had advocated that the Dean remain a member of the committee.

The FSEC discussed the importance of accurate and concise advising for students, stressing that advising is a university wide issue and essential for a timely graduation. The importance of the role of the advisor was reiterated, noting that advisors need to be well informed and willing to form successful relationships with students.

Chairperson Nassersharif discussed the proposed merger of the Admissions Advisory Committee with the Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee (UAAC). Dean Richmond and Vice Provost Beauvais had reviewed this proposal and had asserted that the purpose of the Admissions Committee was very different from the advising aspect of the UAAC. Admissions is not academically involved once a student is accepted to the University. The FSEC decided not proceed with the proposed merger at this time. A discussion ensued regarding the importance of easily accessible electronic advising transcripts for students.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. The committee discussed the agenda items for the upcoming meeting with the President (scheduled for 10:00 AM) including the topic of shared governance. They discussed that the goal of shared governance should be to empower the University to effect legislation more efficiently. They noted the possibility that changes in "shared governance" might precipitate the need to

revise the University Manual. There was a recommendation to seek the advice of the Chair of the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual Committee.

President Dooley joined the meeting at 10:05 AM. The following items were discussed:

5. The President confirmed that he would present a report to the Provost's constituency at the September 18, 2014 General Faculty-Graduate Faculty. The President stated that he planned to submit a written report to the Faculty Senate of the Provost's evaluation. He would provide commentary on the evaluation as well as on the past and the current year at URI.

6. Regarding the 2014-15 Administrator Evaluation process, Chairperson Nassersharif reaffirmed that five faculty members would comprise the President's evaluation committee. The Senate would appoint four members; the fifth member would be selected by the President. The President said that preferred to make his selection after the four members had been appointed by the FSEC.

7. Chairperson Nassersharif introduced discussion of the formation of the Committee on Information Technologies, Infrastructure, Computing, Communications, and Networking (CITICCN). He stressed that this new committee would be focused on academic and research concerns not administrative issues. He informed the President that the Provost had been consulted about the new committee and that the Provost's suggested changes to the proposed language and charge of CITICCN had been made. The President stated that, based upon the recommendations of the Administration Management Review Committee, the University is seeking the expertise of a consultant to work with the Information Technology Review Steering Committee and other information technology (IT) committees to address concerns about business and academic practices. He said that the goal is to create an inclusive, campus-wide collaboration and strategy on IT issues and a plan for the assessment, revision of policies, funding, and acquisitions of technology.

The President explained that the consultant would be charged with determining future needs of the library and information services in order to facilitate teaching and scholarship, and with implementing security practices to protect information and access. The President indicated that the intent is for the consultant to be in place by early fall and produce a report by the end of the academic year. He indicated that there could be opportunity for the newly proposed Senate committee, CITICCN, to assist with the consultant's efforts. Chairperson Nassersharif said that the FSEC planned to propose the new committee at the September 18 Faculty Senate meeting. The President was asked to review the proposed charges and language.

8. Chairperson Nassersharif expressed concern that Faculty Senate has no independent budget for Senate receptions, guests, or refreshments. He informed the President that the FSEC had addressed this concern with the Provost who had recommended that a discussion take place with the President. Chairperson Nassersharif explained that, while the FSEC appreciates the contributions of the individual colleges and would like to continue the practice of their sponsoring Senate receptions, an independent budget would be expedient. Discussion ensued. Chairperson Nassersharif asked the President if he would support fundraising by the Senate and the establishment of a Senate foundation account for these purposes.

9. Chairperson Nassersharif asked the President about the ongoing considerations to change the Promotion and Tenure criteria. The President indicated that conversations with the AAUP had been positive and that AAUP leadership was interested in improving the process. The President said that he strongly believes that providing a concise set of written expectations for the promotion and tenure process will create a unified process and that faculty appreciate clearly stated expectations, standards, criteria, and processes to guide them in meeting and developing their goals of promotion and tenure. Discussion ensued about differences between colleges and

departments, differences within a single department, and the unique challenges for new faculty. It was suggested that a group of faculty and administrators be convened to discuss the larger issues and, subsequently, present options to the faculty.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Lawrence