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## FSEC Minutes January 20, 2015

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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# Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

## Minutes #27

**January 20, 2015**

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Nassersharif presiding. Senators Cerbo, Rarick, Rollo Koster, Sullivan, and Welters were present.

2. Professor Wenisch, Chairperson of the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual (CBUM) Committee, joined the meeting to discuss the email memorandum issued by President Dooley on January 16, 2015 regarding faculty voting eligibility on the health collaborative proposal. Professor Wenisch presented multiple options for actions on the health proposal if it is presented to the Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) and subsequently to the Faculty Senate before the ad hoc committee on Faculty Senate membership and faculty voting rights has made its recommendations to the Senate. The FSEC discussed the jurisdictional issue raised by the President's assertions and recommendations.

In accordance with By-Laws Section 4.25 that CBUM is charged to construe the meaning of the Constitution, the By-Laws and the University Manual upon the request of the Senate Chairperson or Executive Committee, the FSEC agreed to request from CBUM an assessment of the President's interpretation of the Manual as stated in his email memorandum of January 16, 2015. In reviewing the President's directive to departments and colleges that they "should establish in writing prior to the vote which categories of faculty will participate in the vote on this important academic matter, and report this information along with the final vote", the FSEC considered requesting from departments and colleges an accounting of votes by faculty category. Discussion ensued. Professor Wenisch left the meeting at 3:10PM.

3. General Education Implementation Steering Team (GEIST) Chairperson Director Swift joined the meeting at 3:10 PM. She thanked the FSEC for having selected highly effective faculty to be part of the steering team. She praised the GEIST members for their efforts to date. Director Swift reported on the work of the team. Information sessions, geared primarily for faculty, had been hosted on January 13 and 14. GEIST has announced a Fall 2016 launch of the new program (to run simultaneously with the former program); courses will need to be fully approved by November 2015 to allow departments to submit course schedules to Enrollment Services for Fall 2016; GEIST is working to develop the course submission and approval process to allow submissions to start in the Spring 2015 semester; course approvals will continue through Summer 2015. General Education (GE) and CAC Chairs have tentatively agreed to establish 12 review panels (combined membership from each committee, 3-4 faculty each panel) to approve both existing and new courses. The Chairs of these committees have been asked to prepare budgets for this work based on billable hours. Faculty will be paid in the summer for service outside of the normal committee load. GEIST will continue to assist colleges in developing an expedited college-level curriculum process. A temporary website is in place to allow access to materials. Plans are ongoing to develop a permanent website and a FAQ page on the temporary site. Director Swift said that one goal of the implementation process is to dispel the idea that general education courses are of less value than others. Upper level course offerings and integrated courses will communicate to students that the institution values general education. She has asked that the URI homepage feature stories of innovative general education class experiences as they develop.

Chairperson Nassersharif asked about staffing to assist with the work ahead. Senator Cerbo asked about impact of the new program on the Joint Admissions Agreement (JAA). Director Swift indicated that needs will be met regarding these concerns. Senator Sullivan reiterated the importance of ensuring that financial support of all implementation efforts is in place. He also asked that the FSEC be kept informed and be asked to assist when necessary. Director Swift was thanked for her time and effort. Plans for her report to

the Faculty Senate at the upcoming meeting on January 22 were discussed. She concluded her report by saying that many more meetings have been scheduled. Director Swift left the meeting at 4:10 PM.

#### 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

- a. The FSEC reviewed the agenda for the upcoming January 22 Faculty Senate meeting. The committee discussed the proposed membership and charge to the ad hoc committee on Faculty Senate membership and faculty voting rights to be presented at the meeting.
- b. The committee discussed the implications to the meaning of shared governance of recent actions surrounding the development of the health collaborative.
- c. The FSEC discussed the proposed changes to the By-Laws, Section 5.1 (Election of Officers) and the need to submit attendant changes to Faculty Senate Constitution to the General Faculty for a vote.
- d. The FSEC reviewed the status of the Administrator Evaluation Committees. Initial committee meetings are scheduled for President Dooley's and Dean Wright's committees. Ms. Neff informed the FSEC that 2 of 3 faculty who had been asked to serve on Dean Corliss' committee had accepted. An alternate was chosen to replace the third faculty member who had not responded.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff