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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes #33

March 3, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 in the President's Conference Room, Chairperson Nassersharif presiding. Senators Cerbo, Rarick, Rollo Koster, Sullivan, and Welters were present.

2. The President joined the meeting at 3:05 PM. The following matters were discussed:

a. The President reported that he had discussed with the Provost the Faculty Senate budget request to make funds to compensate FSEC members available at the time of appointment of the Senate officers. He said that the Provost agreed to make funds available in the Senate budget every year on July 1. The President also informed the FSEC that he would transfer \$2500 to the Faculty Senate Foundation account for discretionary use and indicated his support of Senate fundraising of donations.

b. Chairperson Nassersharif informed the President that the FSEC had discussed with the Provost its concerns about the jurisdiction exercised by the Graduate Council relating to unapproved changes to University Manual language and unapproved changes to faculty eligibility to act as a major professor.

c. Chairperson Nassersharif informed the President that the Faculty Senate and the Provost are sponsoring the Sheila Black Grubman Faculty Outstanding Service Award (SBG-FOSA) for a 5th year. Chairperson Nassersharif asked if the money for the SBG-FOSA could be awarded from Foundation funds to be consistent with other University Excellence Awards. The President said that he would discuss this request with URI Foundation President, Mr. Smith.

d. The Committee and the President discussed the Report of the Council for Research Subcommittee on Distribution of Overhead Funds (December 2014) and the potential for a re-evaluation of the percentage distribution of overhead funds. The FSEC reported that a meeting with Vice President Sonnenfeld was scheduled for March 10.

e. The Committee confirmed that a second meeting to discuss shared governance with the President and the Provost had been scheduled for April 14. Chairperson Nassersharif expressed the hope that the Senate and the administration could work together to streamline the curricular approval process. The President indicated that he supports a more efficient process. The President commented that he expects that fewer curricular proposals will require Board approval under the new leadership on the Rhode Island Board of Education.

The President left the meeting at 4:10 PM.

3. Senator Rarick had submitted amendments to the minutes of FSEC Meeting # 32, Feb. 24, 2015 in advance of the meeting. FSEC members said that they would vote through email to approve the minutes after they had had a chance to read the amendments.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

a. The FSEC discussed the agenda for the upcoming (March 10) meeting with Vice President Sonnenfeld.

b. The FSEC discussed the ongoing referendum on the question of changes to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate. Chairperson Nassersharif said that electronic voting via SurveyMonkey would close on Friday, March 6.

c. The Committee reviewed the agenda for the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting, March 12. Vice Chairperson Rollo Koster informed the Committee that she would be traveling to attend conferences and would not be available to attend the March 12 Senate meeting. Senator Welters was asked to carry out the responsibilities of the Senate Vice Chair at the March 12 meeting.

d. Senator Sullivan provided the FSEC with an update on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Address Faculty Senate Membership and Faculty Voting Rights. Deans of impacted colleges had been asked to survey their non-tenure track faculty to learn of their opinion about being included in eligibility to serve on the Faculty Senate.

5. ONGOING BUSINESS

The FSEC discussed their ongoing concerns about role of the Graduate Council relative to the role of the Faculty Senate. Discussion ensued. Chairperson Nassersharif expressed his concern that, as a member of the graduate faculty, he has never received a notice to attend a Graduate Faculty meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff