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University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes #36

March 31, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Nassersharif presiding. Senators Welters was present; Senator Rollo Koster participated electronically. Senators Cerbo, Rarick, and Sullivan were absent. The Chair noted the lack of a quorum.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

Chairperson Nassersharif and Senator Welters reported on their meeting of March 27 with the President. They had discussed overhead distribution.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Olerio, Coordinator of Summer Session and J-Term Programs, and Vice Provost Libutti were welcomed to the meeting at 3:30 PM. Mr. Olerio presented statistics from 5 years of summer session enrollment data using Power Point slides. He described the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of the URI summer programs. Strengths included the fact that the infrastructure is in place, URI faculty embrace summer teaching, URI is competitively priced, and it is inexpensive to reach URI students (through website and social media). Weaknesses included limited course offerings and limited availability of URI housing. The high school market and the untapped potential in the online market, he said, were viewed as opportunities. Mr. Olerio discussed the problem of last-minute class cancellations due to under enrollment that leave students with little or no opportunity to enroll in a different class. Across the years from 2011 to 2014, 16 - 22 % of summer classes were cancelled. He is working to improve the notification system for cancellations. Senator Welters noted that students have experienced difficulty with registration. Mr. Olerio reported that total enrollment has declined from 7075 in 2010 to 5794 in 2014 particularly in the non-matriculating student population. One factor in this decline is believed to be loss of enrollment to online offerings at other institutions. He presented enrollment data expressed by department (% change in enrollment vs. % change in majors). A pilot program has been developed for Summer 2015 to improve summer enrollment. High school students (a non-matriculating commuting population) are being offered opportunities to earn concurrent high school and college credits. Also, a program to allow high school students an opportunity to experience life on campus and learn about college preparedness is under development. Mr. Olerio presented data from the 2015 Winter J-Term (50% increase in total number of students from 404 to 606). Mr. Olerio and Vice Provost Libutti left the meeting at 4:10 PM.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

a) Chairperson Nassersharif resumed his report of the discussion with the President of the previous week. Regarding the source of funds for the Faculty Outstanding Service Award, the Chair had been informed that recipients of awards of Foundation funds are decided by the Foundation. The source of the money for the 2015 Faculty Service award will be Fund 100. Additional items of discussion with the President had been the performance-based funding legislation in the RI General Assembly and improving efficiency and engagement in the Senate.

b) The Committee discussed changes to the University Manual section 4.70.10, The Graduate Faculty, proposed by the Dean of the Graduate School. Chairperson Nassersharif indicated that he wanted to solicit responses from the graduate faculty regarding these changes before presenting them to the Faculty Senate. Discussion ensued.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff