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## FSEC Minutes May 14, 2014

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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# Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

## Minutes #1

**May 14, 2014**

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 in Library Conference Room A in the URI Library, Chairperson Nassersharif presiding. Senators Cerbo, Rarick, Rollo-Koster, Sullivan, and Welters were present. Members of the 2013-14 FSEC were also in attendance: former Senate Chair Byrd, former Senate Vice Chair Rice, and Senator Brady.
2. There were no minutes to approve.
3. Chairperson Nassersharif welcomed new members, Senators Rarick, Rollo-Koster, Sullivan, and Welters, to the Executive Committee and all members introduced themselves.
4. Chairperson Nassersharif reviewed topics of ongoing business: implementation of the new general education program, monitoring of the governance structure of the university (as related to changes in the structure of the Board of Education), and administrator reviews.

The Committee reviewed the status of the legislation pending in the Rhode Island General Assembly to establish a new organizational structure of the Board of Education that includes additional powers of the President of the University. The former FSEC had discussed with the President the need to amend the legislation to ensure that the wording allow the President greater flexibility to decide routine university matters at the campus level does not alter historic shared governance at the University. The President had discussed the faculty concerns with Board Chairperson Mancuso who was supportive of URI's position and indicated that she would attempt to meet with the Governor and legislators to amend the language. Board Chairperson Mancuso had asked President Dooley for options for the suggested language changes. Senator Sullivan summarized the legislative process at the State House. Chairperson Nassersharif suggested that an inquiry on the status of the proposed amendments be made at the State House (Chair of the House Finance Committee) and of President Dooley.

5. Former Senate Chair Byrd reviewed the status of the plan to establish a general education implementation steering team. He summarized the draft document prepared by the former FSEC and explained the role of the key stakeholders (larger group) versus the steering team (smaller group). Senator Brady raised some of the previous FSEC's concerns about the implementation of the new program, which included questions about rubric development, assessment criteria, capstone requirements, and the number of courses needed to launch the program (class sizes, seat management, etc.). The committee discussed whether or not departments that currently offer more general education courses could justify more representation in the coordination of the implementation effort.

At 3:46 PM, a motion was approved to continue discussion until 4:00 PM.

The constituency of the implementation group and the need for a "director" was discussed. General Education assessment was discussed.

A motion was made to table the draft of the implementation process until the next meeting. The motion was approved.

6. Chairperson Nassersharif introduced discussion about the Joint Classroom Steering Committee (JCSC). He said that membership of this committee had been lacking adequate faculty representation for some time. He had solicited new members in an email appeal to all faculty on May 9 and had received 10 replies of interest. He explained that he was eager to add the new members to the committee because it was voting on the use of end of year funds.

A motion was made to add the following to the JCSC:

Amanda Izenstark, LIB  
Michael Cerbo, LIB  
Rosa Maria Pegueros, HIS  
Wayne Lee, CVE  
Lenore Martin, CMB  
Marian Goldsmith, BIO  
Louis Kirschenbaum, CHM  
Kristine Bovy, SOC and APG  
Wen Xiong, LAN  
Yuwen Chen, BUS

The motion passed.

Chairperson Nassersharif indicated that he would contact these new members and alert them to the need to vote on expenditures. He also said that he wanted the FSEC to elect a new chair of the JCSC because the current chair was not a faculty member.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Neff