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## FSEC Minutes November 13, 2014

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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# Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

## Minutes #22

**November 13, 2014**

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 AM on Thursday, November 13, 2014 in the President's Conference Room, Chairperson Nassersharif presiding. Senators Cerbo, Rarick, Rollo Koster, and Sullivan were present. Senator Welters was absent.

### 2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

a. Vice Chairperson Rollo Koster reported that she had attended the Chairs' Forum hosted by the Provost.

b. The Committee was reminded of the Health Collaborative Forum scheduled for November 18, 3:30 - 5:00 PM, in the Galanti Lounge.

c. The Committee reviewed the agenda for the upcoming Faculty Senate Meeting scheduled for November 20.

### 3. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. The Committee discussed the proposal from the Joint Committee on Online and Distance Education to establish a policy requiring faculty who teach online courses be qualified to do so by training or experience and be re-qualified every 5 years. Discussion ensued. The FSEC agreed that it is desirable for the Office of Online Education to offer regular training for online teaching but that departments determine faculty teaching loads including method of delivery. Senator Rarick noted that faculty are in need of technical assistance in the preparation of course materials for face-to-face as well as online delivery. He cited the need in his department for the very time-consuming uploading of thousands of (language) exercises into SAKAI that falls to faculty.

b. The FSEC discussed the health collaborative proposal, the upcoming forum on the proposal, and the approval process for the proposal. Senator Sullivan urged committee members to read the full report, distributed through the Provost's Office on October 30, before forming opinions. Concern for departments/schools that are part of the colleges involved in the proposed Health Sciences program but that have been excluded from the plan was discussed.

c. The Committee discussed possible changes to the structure of the Senate Executive Committee to enable greater efficiency and efficacy. The role of past Senate chairs, individually and as a group, was considered. The idea of forming an advisory body to the Senate comprised of former chairs was discussed. The Committee reviewed the discussion that had taken place October 30 with the President and the Provost on the subject of shared governance. The need to develop a more agile and effective Executive Committee was considered. The 3-year model consisting of Vice Chair-Chair-Past Chair was revisited. This model would necessitate extending the 3-year term limit of an individual Senate appointment. It was decided to propose that Senators who are elected to serve the Vice Chair-Chair position would remain full members of the Faculty Senate as representatives of their colleges for the duration of their service even if the two-year position exceeded their three-year term as a Senator. Also, any past Chair (Chair emeritus) whose 3-year term on the Senate had expired would continue as an ex officio member of the Executive Committee for a period of one year after expiration of the term as Chair, and would be considered ex officio member of the Faculty Senate during the same year. The committee acknowledged that augmenting the compensation and/or release time for this level of service would be required to enable faculty to commit to this level of work. The FSEC moved to present and discuss

changes in the Executive Committee structure in a forum at the next Faculty Senate meeting. The motion passed.

d. Chairperson Nassersharif expressed frustration about 1) the need to make an annual request to the Provost's Office for compensatory summer recontracting money for FSEC members and course release funds for the Senate Chair and Vice Chair, 2) the need for multiple reminders of the Provost's Office to execute budget transfers of these funds, and 3) the timing of the budget transfers months after the need for their intended use (to pay per course faculty). Chairperson Nassersharif suggested that the Provost be asked if the Senate may have independent control of funds needed to compensate the FSEC members and that these funds be made available at the time of the Senate appointments (spring semester) to allow planning on the part of the departments.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff