

2014

FSEC Minutes October 2, 2014

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes #16

October 2, 2014

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:12 AM on Thursday, October 2, 2014 in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Nassersharif presiding. Senators Cerbo, Rarick, Rollo Koster, Sullivan, and Welters were present.

2. Professor Jacqueline Webb, Chair of the Council for Research, joined the meeting at 8:15 AM. She reported on the activities of the Council and some difficulties that have been experienced. The Council has met twice this year; Professor Webb expressed concerns about the lack of full attendance and asked for assistance from the FSEC in this regard. Professor Webb also described problems with the continuing center review process. Once continuing status is granted to a center, the center is to be reviewed every four years by the Council who shall submit recommendations, including recommendations for continuation or dissolution, to the Faculty Senate. Requests for renewal information often go unanswered. Professor Webb asked for assistance from the FSEC in obtaining responses from center directors. She reported that she had met with the new Director of Sponsored Projects, Ms. Nwangwu. She reported that the Council has initiated a series of discussions with offices and office directors who work with the research enterprise to learn how to improve collaboration. These offices include legal services, purchasing, information technology, and facilities. Discussion ensued about the distribution of overhead funds at the institution and the annual review of the overhead distribution scheme for the University that is carried out at the end of the calendar year by the Council for Research. The Council will provide a series of recommendations for the use (spending) of overhead funds. Discussion continued on the subject of the source of retroactive salary payments to faculty for summer recontracting in cases in which summer salary was paid by grants that have closed. Professor Webb stated that the institution needs a policy for this contingency. The FSEC asked the Council Chair if she would report at the November 20 Faculty Senate meeting. She agreed. Professor Webb left the meeting at 9:00 AM.

3. Minutes of FSEC Committee Meetings #10, August 28, #12, Sept. 11, and #13, Sept. 12, 2014 were approved.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. The FSEC reviewed agenda items for their upcoming meetings with the President and the Provost.

b. The FSEC reviewed the subject of proposed changes to the promotion and tenure standards that have been discussed with the President.

c. The FSEC discussed the intent of the Joint Committee on Academic Planning Committee to revise and update the Academic Plan that extends through 2015.

d. The FSEC addressed changes to the University Manual descriptions of the University College and General Education Committee and the Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee. The FSEC will recommend changes at the next Senate meeting.

e. The committee discussed the subject of shared governance and the perspectives of the Provost and the President that had been expressed to them at recent meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff