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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes #17

October 9, 2014

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:11 AM on Thursday, October 9, 2014 in the President's Conference Room, Chairperson Nassersharif presiding. Senators Cerbo, Rarick, Rollo Koster, Sullivan, and Welters were present.

2. Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting #1, Sept. 18, 2014 were reviewed.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

a. The FSEC reviewed the agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting #2, scheduled for October 16, 2014.

b. Chairperson Nassersharif and Vice Chairperson Rollo Koster reported on their meeting with the President of October 7.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. The FSEC discussed the Administrator Evaluation (AE) process. Chairperson Nassersharif said that he had discussed with the Provost performing a review of Vice Provost Beauvais this year because her contract will require renewal in 2015. Discussion ensued. The FSEC approved a motion to remain compliant with the rules, the University Manual language defining the AE process, and implement a review of the Vice Provost in the 2014-15 academic year.

b. The committee discussed the subject of shared governance and the possibilities for improving the Faculty Senate planning process in order to yield greater, more effective continuity. Term length for senators and the election process were considered. Augmenting the compensation for Executive Committee member was discussed.

5. The President joined the meeting at 9:10 AM. The following matters were discussed:

a. Chairperson Nassersharif informed the President that Dean Wright would be presenting information regarding the upcoming (Nov. 4) statewide bond referendum in support of new facilities for URI's College of Engineering at the October 16th Faculty Senate meeting. Chairperson Nassersharif asked the President if there were additional ways to support the referendum. The President suggested that faculty encourage their students to vote and said that networking with friends and family can be effective. He said that he would ask Communications and Marketing to provide marketing kits and yard signs for distribution at the Senate meeting. The President commented on the plans for improvements to the College of Engineering (COE) facilities and noted the support of many corporate sponsors. He also commented on the campaign strategy and the hope that the referendum would pass in spite of the large dollar amount of the bond (\$125 M). He said that the annual economic return to the state from the COE (\$142 M) exceeds the amount of the bond.

b. Chairperson Nassersharif addressed the subject of the update of the Academic Plan 2010-2015 to be undertaken by the Joint Committee on Academic Planning (JCAP). He expressed concern for the role of

faculty and questioned the degree of engagement by faculty within the structure of JCAP. The President commented that he considered the Academic Plan to have been a strong plan when it was developed, and that it exists as the core of the academic mission around which academic priorities of the institution are built. Discussion ensued about strategic planning processes. Chairperson Nassersharif reiterated that the Senate wishes to be fully engaged in the update of the Plan. The President expressed concern for inefficient processes and said that he would like the update of the Plan to be complete within a year. The discussion continued about continuity in committee work to accomplish specific goals and the need to balance expeditious process with full engagement of all faculty. The President described an effective plan as one that provides a framework for participation and effort across disciplines and invites the pursuit of endeavors that support the priorities.

c. Chairperson Nassersharif asked the President about his comment regarding "morale" included in the evaluation report of the Provost. The President responded that, generally, morale is influenced by numerous factors and can lag behind other indicators. He said that it is difficult to draw definitive conclusions from comments made in the Provost's survey but that concerns shared by a significant group of faculty are certainly worth examining.

d. The President was asked about the Confucius Institute at URI in the context of recent media attention concerning Hanban and their control at other Confucius Institutes nationwide. The President responded that he was not aware of any effort by Hanban to the control content of our programs. He said that the support of the Confucius Institute has been helpful in building the Chinese major at URI.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff