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## FSEC Minutes October 23, 2014

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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# Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

## Minutes #19

**October 23, 2014**

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 AM on Thursday, October 23, 2014 in Library Conference Room B, Chairperson Nassersharif presiding. Senators Cerbo, Rarick, Rollo Koster, Sullivan, and Welters were present.

2. Minutes of FSEC Committee Meetings #14, Sept. 18 and #15, Sept. 25 were approved.

### 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

a. Chairperson Nassersharif reminded the committee that the Provost and Vice Provost Beauvais would be joining the meeting at 9:00 AM. The FSEC reviewed the discussion items on the agenda for the Provost.

b. Chairperson Nassersharif and Vice Chairperson Rollo Koster reported that they had attended a lunch meeting on Oct. 16 with the Provost and the AAUP President and Vice President.

c. Chairperson Nassersharif and Vice Chairperson Rollo Koster reported that they had met with the Provost and Vice Provost Beauvais on Oct. 17. The Provost had discussed creating a subcommittee to examine new options for summer sessions.

d. Senators Sullivan, Welters, and Cerbo reported on their Oct. 17 meeting with Confucius Institute Director, Professor (Wenchao) He, and Vice Provost Katz. Senator Sullivan distributed (electronically) a copy of the contract with the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban). The Senators reported that, under the agreement, the Confucius Institute at URI advances the knowledge of Chinese language and culture through our Chinese language programs, partnerships with middle and high schools, and the sponsoring of cultural events. They also discussed URI's degree of control over the faculty hires, course content, and selection of teachers for the secondary levels. Professor He offered to attend a meeting of the FSEC meeting and, subsequently, make a presentation at a Faculty Senate meeting.

### 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. The FSEC reviewed the status of the nominations for the Administrator Evaluation Committees for President Dooley, Vice Provost Katz, and Dean Wright. Ms. Neff was asked to solicit more nominations.

5. Vice Provost Beauvais joined the meeting at 9:15 AM. The following matter was discussed:

a. The Vice Provost was asked about the annual Champlin Foundations award process. The Vice Provost distributed a copy of the Call for Proposals that is sent annually to the Deans from the Provost's Office (deans are asked to forward the information to their faculty) and a copy of the award process timeline. She said that the Foundations provide approximately \$500,000 in grants annually and she described the submission and final selection process of the 4-5 proposals that are ultimately presented to the Foundations for consideration. A faculty committee primarily comprised of previous awardees of Champlin grants reviews and selects the proposals submitted to the Foundations. The Vice Provost indicated that the University uses its experience with the Foundations to direct faculty to successful proposals and makes final selections based on knowledge of the priorities of the funding criteria. Chairperson Nassersharif indicated that faculty whose proposals were not selected at the first tier review

level (pre-concept proposal) were not receiving any useful feedback. The Vice Provost indicated that her office would attempt to provide more complete feedback on those proposals that are not selected for further development.

The Provost joined the meeting at 9:30 AM and participated in the discussion about the Champlin grants. Additional matters were discussed:

b. Chairperson Nassersharif asked the Provost about retroactive summer (internal payroll) compensations to faculty who were paid from grant funding during the time period covered by the recently finalized faculty contract. The Provost indicated that Assistant Controller Cacciola and Vice Provost Katz were working to disburse the retroactive payments. The Provost had been made aware that retroactive pay totaling approximately \$150,000 was owed to 288 faculty members. Some payments will appear by the Nov. 7 payday; the process should be complete by Nov. 21.

c. The Provost was asked about the evaluation reports to the constituencies of Dean Brownell and Dean Richmond. He responded that he had met with Dean Brownell and is planning to present his report at the College of Arts and Sciences December faculty meeting. The Provost said that he would meet with the staff of University College. He was reminded that Dean Richmond's constituency was comprised of faculty advisors and department chairs. Ms. Neff was asked to forward a list of Dean Richmond's constituents to the Provost. The Provost suggested that the Manual description of the Administrator Evaluation process be amended to reflect that the verbal report on the evaluation results occur in a scheduled college faculty meeting.

d. The Provost was asked about the status of the merger between the School of Education and the College of Continuing Education. He said that a committee of 8 faculty members had met during the summer and continues to work on a possible configuration for this merger. He said it is his understanding that mutual opportunities and areas of common interest have been identified. Discussion continued regarding the health division reorganization and the impact on the Department of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design. It was noted that the Schmidt Labor Research Center is currently not structured within a college and should be considered in these efforts to realign and reorganize.

The Provost said that the Phase II Health committee report was near completion. After it is released, a public forum will be held to discuss the proposal.

The issue of voting rights within departments was discussed in the context of the potential health programs reorganization and other academic matters. The Provost said that clinical faculty and research faculty are not term limited appointments and typically participate fully in academic matters within their units. He said that lecturers also participate in academic matters in many departments. The committee noted that the University Manual calls for voting by continuing faculty (i.e., tenured or tenure-track). The Provost noted a concern that he has shared with faculty senate leadership many times related to the exclusion of clinical faculty, research faculty, and lecturers from serving as senators and, therefore, from participating in the formal shared governance process. A discussion followed about the possibility of bringing a proposal to the Senate to more clearly define voting rights.

e. The Provost was asked about summer academic programs. He is in favor of researching new models for summer courses. The current model (two 5-week sessions; one 10-week session, with session 1 starting right after graduation in mid May) may not be optimal. Institutional Research has gathered data indicating that students who fall behind in earning academic credits or meeting requirements tend to utilize the summer programs to complete their credit earnings. However, many students choose to earn these credits during summer at other institutions, especially out of state students. The Provost said that URI needs to look at all marketable ways to offer summer classes, particularly critical summer offerings that should be offered online. He suggested that an ad hoc committee of 4-5 faculty may wish to work with Vice Provost Libutti to explore new models and offerings for summer programs. The Provost said that he will initiate this committee and will suggest that, in addition to a new structure, it consider developing courses unique to the local RI environment that would be attractive and marketable around the country.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff