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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes #13

September 12, 2014

The meeting was convened at 2:35 PM on September 12, 2014 in the President's Conference Room, Green Hall. Present: President Dooley, Chairperson Nassersharif, Vice Chairperson Rollo Koster, Senators Cerbo, Rarick, Sullivan, and Welters.

The following matters were discussed:

1. The President confirmed his plan to address the faculty at the September 18, 2014 General Faculty-Graduate Faculty meeting (scheduled prior to the Faculty Senate meeting on that day). He said that, prior to September 18, he would provide the FSEC with a letter summarizing the results of the faculty evaluation of the Provost that was carried out last year.
2. The FSEC discussed with the President the need for funds to pay for Senate receptions and other operating expenses. Chairperson Nassersharif asked the President if he had any objection to the Faculty Senate engaging in fundraising of donations to the Senate foundation account. The President said that he had no objection. The President asked the Chair to prepare a budget of operating costs for both fund 100 (state) and fund 401 (foundation).
3. In view of the upcoming scheduled meeting on the subject, Chairperson Nassersharif asked the President to share his thoughts regarding improving shared governance at the University. The President responded that he would like to explore means of developing greater efficiency without sacrificing the advantages of shared governance. Discussion ensued regarding the current environment in higher education and the need for institutions to be flexible and adaptable in order to compete successfully. The question of moving to a more representative form of governance in which senators are more empowered to make decisions on behalf of their constituents was considered. The President discussed the need for URI to align its processes with the pace of change in the 21st century. He said that the more nimble institutions establish themselves as leaders and the leaders attract the available funding. Discussion continued about the changing role of faculty in this process and about the Board of Education as a factor in the institution's responsiveness.
4. The FSEC discussed proposed changes to the promotion and tenure standards. The FSEC and the President agreed that relying on the terms of a hire letter is not a best practice and that expectations can be confusing for junior faculty. They discussed establishing written college- and department-specific standards. Criteria and standards would be determined and agreed to by the faculty within the department and, in turn, agreed to by the institution. These documents would be of benefit to the process by limiting the exercise of arbitrary and unilateral administrative changes and expectations. The process must be consistent with the collective bargaining agreement for faculty. FSEC members said that they would collect more information.
5. The President was asked if the following presidential committee could be deleted from the Manual:
 - 5.22.10 The Information Resources Council (IRC) is a university-wide advisory body with respect to information resources policy, standards, services, physical facilities, and allocation of

resources. Its purpose is to promote cooperation, coordination, and effective use of information technology.

5.22.11 The Vice Provost for Information Technology Services shall chair the IRC. The membership shall comprise representatives of all of the colleges and schools and the university libraries; the Faculty Senate, Student Senate, and Graduate Student Association; the divisions of the university; admissions and enrollment services. The Faculty Senate, Student Senate, and Graduate Student Association shall appoint their respective delegates. The Vice Provost shall make other appointments based on nominations by the appropriate unit heads. Members shall serve three-year staggered terms. The directors of departments reporting to the Vice Provost for Information Technology Services shall serve as ex officio members.

5.22.12 The IRC shall report to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and shall advise the President and Vice Presidents.

The President approved its deletion.

6. Chairperson Nassersharif raised a question regarding the mechanism for retroactive compensation, and source of this compensation, to faculty who were paid through summer recontracting (grant funding) for time periods covered by the recent faculty contract. The President said that he would make inquiries.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff