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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes #15

November 1, 2013

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:10AM on November 1, 2013 in the Dorothy Vocino Conference Room in the URI Library, Chairperson Byrd presiding. Senators Brady, Cerbo, Davis, Nassersharif, and Rice were present.

2. Minutes of FSEC Meeting #13, Oct. 25, 2013 were approved as amended.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

a. The FSEC reviewed the meeting with President Dooley of the previous day. Follow up to this meeting was discussed under Ongoing Business.

b. Chairperson Byrd reminded the committee that they would be meeting with the Provost on November 8, 2013. Agenda items were discussed under Ongoing Business.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. On Oct. 31, the FSEC had discussed with President Dooley the idea of a broader approach to reducing safety risks on campus. Hosting another co-sponsored public forum featuring experts in non-violent conflict resolution, non-violent training for law enforcement, counseling, mental health issues specific to the college-aged population, and emergency protocols was proposed. The President had been receptive to the idea. The FSEC discussed the format of the event and considered possible participants. Senators Brady and Davis agreed to contact suggested individuals. Senator Brady agreed to inform the President, in writing, of the progress of the planning.

b. In considering agenda items for the upcoming meeting with the Provost, the committee discussed policies regarding online learning. Senate leadership has been informed that the institution is engaging a private vendor to market some online degree programs at URI. The FSEC expressed concern about this approach becoming primarily a money-making venture, the potential for compromise of the integrity of the programs offered, and issues of intellectual property rights. They discussed the need for a transparent cost structure with a clear understanding of the return to the department or college. The FSEC also discussed its concerns about faculty compensation for online teaching and the impact of "online" on teaching load. The role and composition of the Joint Committee on Online and Distance Learning was discussed.

c. A suggestion was made to convene an ad hoc committee to evaluate the charges of the standing and joint committees.

d. The FSEC discussed at length its concerns about the UCGE committee work to revise the general education program. Members discussed the issues, as known, and ways to be effective in bringing the plan forward to the Senate. Chairperson Byrd said he wants to have a forum on the plan at the January Senate meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff