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## FSEC Minutes August 19, 2020

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)**  
**Minutes of Meeting #13 - August 19, 2020, Via Zoom**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Chair Echevarria. Vice Chair Cardany, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, and Welters were in attendance
  
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**
  1. Chair Echevarría reported on the recent meeting with Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Veeger, and Vice Chair Cardany. During the meeting, the Provost provided an update on COVID-19 issues and reported on coming changes to the Student Handbook. Also discussed was the reporting structure for the Director of General Education and changes to the Spring 2021 calendar.
  2. Spring 2021 Academic Calendar: Chair Echevarria reported on her conversation with the Director of Athletics Bjorn regarding the ramifications of omitting the spring break on athletic schedules.
  3. The Chair related that after a conversation with the Director of Learning, Assessment & Online Education Goldsmith, the Academic Testing Center does not have the resources to provide remote proctoring during the fall 2020 semester.
  4. The Chair will follow up at the next meeting with the President on the invitations to the Board of Trustees (BOT) Chair Cook and Vice Chair McNally.
  5. The Chair has invited Mary Grace Almandrez and Jen Riley of the University Diversity Committee (UDC) to meet with FSEC.
  6. The Chair responded to an inquiry about minors from a Faculty member. FSEC agreed that the change in Manual language concerning minors should be examined by CBUM to ensure it is clear and understandable for all Faculty.
  7. Vice Chair Cardany provided an update on the RFP for the Curriculum Management System (CMS). She will meet with Vice Provost Veeger and Ryan Pincince from Purchasing concerning the RFP.
  8. Vice Chair Cardany also provided updates on the Special Committees. The Special Committee on Refinement of Committee Structure discussed altering subcommittee alignments under standing FS committees. The General Education Rubric Calibration Committee also met to discuss a more efficient approval process.

### 3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. The revised minutes of FSEC Meeting #11 July 22, 2020, were approved as amended.
2. The approval of minutes from the FSEC Meeting #12 July 29, 2020, was postponed to the next FSEC meeting pending further revision.

4. **COMMITTEES** The FSEC reviewed and discussed Committee assignments on both Standing Committees and Joint Committees. There is ongoing concern regarding workload adjustments for Committee Chairs and Senators with dual committee appointments, making it challenging to recruit Senators to serve in these capacities. Several ideas and solutions to this situation were considered.

5. **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** The FSEC discussed the process of Notice vs. Approval and interim language for the Board of Trustees (BOT) for changes such as the addition of Programs, closure of Programs, and organizational changes. They also discussed the BOT-FS relationship and the need to clarify and codify the BOT role in the University Manual.

6. **NEW FACULTY ORIENTATION** FSEC discussed the first draft of an informative document prepared by the Faculty Senate Coordinator for the New Faculty Orientation. The Faculty Senate Coordinator will revise the document in order to make the presentation of the Senate more relevant and comprehensible to the intended audience.

7. **WEBEX VS. ZOOM** The FSEC discussed the merits of using WebEx or Zoom for hosting Faculty Senate online meetings. The Faculty Senate Coordinator will share a Zoom link for the next FSEC meeting so that FSEC members may develop practice polls to share at the next FSEC meeting.

8. **UNIVERSITY MANUAL AND FS BY-LAWS** The FSEC considered changes to the University Manual and FS By-Laws for online Faculty Senate meetings. Under discussion was the time frame for the FS meetings to have an allowance in the FS By-laws for an extension beyond 5 PM, as online meetings tend to require more time. FSEC also recalled that the Senate voted at the May 2, 2020 meeting to approve the FSEC recommendation to change the titles of the Senate officers.

9. **MEMBERSHIP** The FSEC discussed Faculty Senate membership and its representation of the Faculty. Discussion on this topic will continue.

### 10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 PM.