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9-2-2020

## FSEC Minutes September 2, 2020

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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### Recommended Citation

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## Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

### Minutes of FSEC Meeting #15 September 2, 2020, Via Zoom

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER** The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM by Chair Echevarria. Vice Chair Cardany, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, and Welters were in attendance. Guests: Mary Grace Almandrez and Jeannette Riley, Chair and Vice Chair of the University Diversity Council Community Equity & Diversity.
- 2) Chair Echevarria welcomed Associate Vice President Almandrez and Dean Riley, the Chair and Vice Chair of the University Diversity Council (UDC), to the FSEC meeting. Associate Vice President Almandrez and Dean Riley explained the UDC and their mission of strengthening change in three major areas; curriculum development, faculty development, and faculty diversity. The UDC committee and subcommittee structure will examine the current status of our institution and community for the purpose of making recommendations to the President: what is working well, what is not working well, and best practices and lessons to be learned from research and other institutions.. The University Diversity Council has also been tasked with conducting a campus climate survey, which is currently under development and is slated to be distributed to community members in February 2021.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the UDC emphasized the need to coordinate efforts relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion across the institution. Chair Echevarria previously shared the draft of the FS Committees charges as related to diversity with the University Diversity Council. The FSEC Chair mentioned that the Chair of the Service and Community Life Committee, Senator Derbyshire, is eager for her committee to begin collaborating closely with the UDC. Chair Almandrez reported that the UDC will distribute a quarterly newsletter and a future issue might highlight the work of the FS around diversity and inclusion issues. The UDC Chair and Vice Chair extended an invitation to the FSEC Chair to attend the next UDC meeting on September 25.

The FSEC Chair thanked Dean Riley and the Associate Vice President for taking the time to update the FSEC on the critical work of the UDC before they left the meeting.

- 3) **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**
  - a) The Chair and FSEC discussed the status and the most recent appointments to the FS Standing Committees and the Joint Committees.
  - b) The “beginning of the year check-in” series of half-hour meetings with the Faculty Senate standing Committee and Subcommittee Chairs and the FSEC is scheduled on September 8th, from 1 to 3 PM. Assignments were made for liaisons to each of the FS Standing Committees:
    - Vice Chair Cardany- Curriculum and Standards Committee
    - Senator Welters – General Education Committee
    - Senator Morokoff – Service and Community Life Committee
    - Senator Hicks – Constitution, Bylaws and University Manual Committee
    - Senator Barbour- Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee

Chair Echevarria- all remaining committees

- 4) The Chair and Vice Chair reported on the New Faculty Orientation they attended on August 31.
- 5) Vice Chair Cardany reported there is no additional news on the new CMS RFP. She remains hopeful about the outcome.

**6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Revised minutes of FSEC Meeting #12 July 29, 2020, and FSEC Meeting #13 August 19, 2020, in addition to the new minutes: FSEC Meeting #14 August 26, 2020, were postponed to the next meeting.
- 7) A review of the Revised Ombudsman letter was postponed to the next FSEC meeting.

**8) SENATE MEETINGS**

- a) The agenda for the Senate Boot Camp was reviewed and will be sent to Senators and guests on Friday, September 4. The method of polling on motions was discussed. Vice Chair Cardany will host a Zoom meeting on Friday, September 4, 2020, in preparation for the Boot Camp mock motions. Senator Krieger, FS Parliamentarian, will be in attendance for the Boot Camp and offered his assistance.
- b) The FSEC Chair reported that she had discussed the committee charges with the prospective committee chairs for their input and comment. The current draft of standing committee charges was reviewed, and committee charges were updated. The FSEC discussed an update to the charge for CBUM concerning equity and inclusion.
- c) The review of the draft agenda of September 17, 2020, FS meeting was postponed to the next weekly FSEC meeting.
- 9) **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** The FSEC discussed recommendations to the Board of Trustees (BOT) regarding their response to Senate legislation. The Faculty Senate Specialist and Vice Chair Cardany will study the BOT By-Laws language as it pertains to notice vs. approval and report back.

- 10) **FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP** The FSEC discussed Faculty Senate membership with Senator Barbour who reported on her research concerning Faculty Senate membership. Chair Echevarria met with the Director of Institutional Research, John Stringer, who will collect and provide Faculty composition data sets (1995-2020) to the FSEC for further study.

**11) ADJOURNMENT**

- a) The FSEC meeting adjourned at 4:04 PM.