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## FSEC Minutes September 23, 2020

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)**  
**Minutes of Meeting #18 September 23, 2020**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM by Chair Echevarria. Vice Chair Cardany, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, and Welters were in attendance.
  
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES** Chair Echevarría reported on the following:
  1. The Chair and Vice Chair attended a leadership meeting hosted by Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Veeger to discuss Spring 2021 and other issues. Some faculty chose to switch from face to face to remote teaching shortly before the start of the semester, causing concern among some students and parents. During the meeting, AAUP leaders shared concerns about the volume of COVID-19 testing on campus.
  2. The Chair and Vice Chair met with Board of Trustees Chair Cook after the September 17 Faculty Senate meeting. She was enthusiastic about learning about URI and the Faculty Senate. She and the Senate Chair and Vice Chair agreed it would be beneficial to organize a meeting with the Chair of the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee.
  3. Chair Echevarria reported an inquiry from a Senator who expressed concern about the process by which some colleges are making appointments to college diversity committees. After discussion, the FSEC agreed that it would be advisable to share the Senator's concerns with the University Diversity Council (UDC). Senator Morokoff agreed to discuss the matter with the UDC at an upcoming meeting.
  4. The Chair and Vice Chair met with Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Veeger. During the meeting, Provost DeHayes provided updates on the status of the Curriculum Management System. They also discussed the Board of Trustee process for responding to Faculty Senate legislation, low-enrollment courses, and the Faculty Senate meeting of September 17, 2020. The search process for a permanent Graduate School Dean has not yet begun. The Provost also shared that the Academic Summit in January 2021 would focus on anti-racism, diversity, and inclusion. The Provost informed the Chair and Vice Chair that the Providence Campus is assisting students who need WIFI, a quiet place to study, and an appropriate space from which to participate in classes remotely.
  
3. Approval of FSEC meeting minutes of September 2 and September 16 was postponed for further review and revision.

4. The Administrator reviews are waiting on confirmation. The Chair reported that there should be confirmation of Deans to be evaluated within the next week.
5. The Chair led a debriefing on the September Senate meeting with the FSEC. It was suggested that the results not be shown while voting is taking place and that more time is given to voting. A link to the agenda will be posted in the chat rather than displayed on the screen during the meeting.
6. The FSEC discussed Qualtrics versus Google forms for use with the Referendum for the General Faculty on changing the FS Executive officer titles to President and Vice President/Vice President-Elect. The FSEC decided that Qualtrics will be used for the referendum, as it allows for both restricted access and anonymous voting.
7. The FSEC addressed the URI 101 Task Force report and the response to the Task Force Report by the Teaching Advising and Assessment Committee and discussed how to move forward with implementing recommendations to improve the course. FSEC began to consider the appropriate process by which the matter could be referred to faculty in each college.
8. Vice Chair Cardany discussed the Special Committee on Curriculum Refinement. Vice Chair Cardany encouraged the FSEC to provide their input using the document that she created in the Google shared drive.
9. Discussion on class size, Senate membership, and the Board of Trustees was postponed until the next meeting due to insufficient time.
10. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.