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University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "FSEC Minutes October 7, 2020" (2020). *Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas and Minutes*. Paper 261.

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Minutes of Meeting #20 of Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

October 7, 2020, Via Zoom

1. **Call To Order** The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM by Chair Echevarria. Vice Chair Cardany, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, and Welters were in attendance. Guests: Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Veeger.
2. The FSEC met with Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Veeger.
 - a. Provost DeHayes reported the following updates:
 - i. The Provost confirmed that Dean Wright of the College of Engineering has announced that he will retire after this academic year ends. The Provost has already held a meeting with faculty from the College of Engineering in preparation for launching the search for a new Dean of the College of Engineering, which will begin as soon as possible. The Provost also indicated that he hopes to begin the search for the permanent Dean of the Graduate School before the end of this fall 2020 semester.
 - ii. Administrators who will be evaluated this year include Dean Boughida, Dean Ebrahimpour, and Dean Larrat in addition to CIO Kaugars and VP Snyder.
 - iii. Vice Provost Veeger reported that Purchasing has sent out an award letter to the vendor for the Curriculum Management System. Vice Provost Veeger will check with the Assistant Director of Purchasing, Ryan Pincince, for additional updates.
 - iv. The Provost reported that the 2021 Academic Summit topic would be antiracism, and they have identified a featured speaker for the program. The Provost suggested that, as JCAP moves forward with summit planning, perhaps members of the Service and Community Life committee may be willing to contribute to this work and serve on the Academic Summit Committee.
 - v. There have been requests from students for an S/S-/U* grading option for the Fall 2020 session. The Faculty Senate Chair informed the Provost that FSEC would discuss the matter once again and that she would then reach out to Student Senate Academic Affairs Committee Chair Thomas McGrath to share with him the FSEC perspective on this issue.
 - b. The Provost and the FSEC discussed several models for BOT response to Senate legislation to present at the upcoming BOT meeting in October.
 - c. The Provost and FSEC also discussed ongoing faculty concerns about class size.
 - d. The Provost will provide to the FSEC the draft output from the recent diversity, equity, and inclusion retreat that he organized and hosted for Deans.

The Provost and the Vice Provost left the meeting at 3:17 PM.

3. **Announcements and Updates**

- a. It was reported that the General Faculty Referendum #1 (the proposal to change the Faculty Senate officers' titles) passed.
- b. Vice Chair Cardany gave a brief update on the conclusions reached by the Special Committee on Committee Refinement. The formal report from the Special Committee is forthcoming.
- c. Chair Echevarria provided an update on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee charge and tasks ahead.

4. **Review of Minutes**

- a. Minutes of the FS Meeting #1 on September 15, 2020 was reviewed in preparation for the October 15th, 2020, Faculty Senate meeting.
- b. FSEC meeting minutes #15 of September 2, #17 of September 16, and meeting #18 September 23, 2020 were approved.
- c. FSEC minutes of meeting #19 of September 30, 2020, was postponed for further corrections.

5. **FS AGENDA** The FSEC reviewed and made corrections to the draft agenda of the upcoming FS meeting on October 15, 2020.

6. **Board of Trustees** The Provost will meet with the FS Chair, Vice Chair, and the BOT Faculty Representative, Professor Gindy, to further discuss and finalize their presentation to the URI BOT.

7. **URI 101** Chair Echevarria will discuss URI 101 with Chair Kincaid of the Curriculum and Standards Committee.

8. **Senate Membership** The discussion on Senate membership was postponed pending information from the Office of Institutional Research.

9. **Fall 2020 Student Success** The FSEC discussed Fall 2020 student success. All members of FSEC unanimously agreed that the circumstances that gave rise to the alternative grading scheme in the Spring 2020 semester were fundamentally different from our current circumstances. All members agreed that it would not be advisable to offer an alternative grading scheme this semester.

10. **Library and Interlibrary Loan** The Chair forwarded concerns received from faculty about library and interlibrary loan services to the Dean of Library Services. Dean Boughida responded to the messages of concern quickly and offered to meet with the faculty who had raised the concerns and also with Faculty Senate officers. The Chair and Vice Chair will organize meetings to discuss these issues with Dean Boughida and also with the concerned faculty members.

The meeting adjourned at 3:59 PM.