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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)
Minutes of Meeting #22 October 21, 2020

1. **Call to Order:** The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Chair Echevarria. Vice Chair Cardany, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, and Welters were in attendance.

2. Announcements and updates

a. Administrator Evaluations: Senator Barbour suggested names for the evaluation committee for the dean of the College of Pharmacy.

b. Board of Trustees: The Board of Trustees' retreat will be held on Friday, October 23, 2020 and Saturday, October 24, 2020. Open meetings will be accessible via Facebook Live. Chair Echevarria and Vice Chair Cardany will be presenting at an upcoming Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee meeting.

c. Committee restructuring: No update was given.

d. JCAP membership: The Faculty Senate Executive Committee membership is complete; Senator Barbour will represent the Executive Committee as well as the Academic Program Review Committee.

e. URI 101: Chair Echevarria plans to reach out to Senator Kincaid, Chair of the Curriculum and Standards Committee, to discuss how to move forward.

f. Advisory Committee town halls: Chair Echevarria explained that the town hall meetings held as part of the presidential search are going well. Board of Trustees Chair Cook and Search Committee Chair Ryan have been attending the town hall meetings and have been engaged and enthusiastic with the community input. Vice Chair Cardany suggested that the Executive Committee encourage faculty to invite all their students to attend the town hall meetings. The Committee discussed the survey for the presidential search, which was sent to alumni, faculty and staff. Chair Echevarria confirmed that responses have been coming in and the importance of having input from the different constituencies. The deadline for completing the surveys is Friday, October 23rd.

3. Review of minutes:

a. Approval of the minutes from FSEC Meeting #20 October 7, 2020 was postponed due to time constraints.

b. The minutes from FSEC Meeting #21 October 14, 2020 were approved. 4. **Debrief of October 15, 2020 FS meeting:** The Executive Committee discussed the effectiveness of the Faculty Senate meeting, in particular the use of polls for voting. Vice Chair Cardany researched parliamentary procedure and stated that oral votes were not best practice. The Committee agreed that everything went well and expressed satisfaction with the polls.

5. **Faculty data and Senate membership:** Chair Echevarria explained that she will be requesting additional demographic information from the Office of Institutional Research, particularly gender, percentage of faculty in each group by college, and part-time faculty. Senator Morokoff suggested that Veronica Walsh, Executive Business Analyst, may be able to furnish that information.

6. **Library and interlibrary loan:** Chair Echevarria will ask the Faculty Senate Coordinator to arrange a meeting for the Chair and Vice Chair to meet with the English department Chair Williams and Associate Professor Jones to discuss the issues concerning the Library and Interlibrary loan. The Chair would also like to arrange a meeting with Library Dean Boughida.

7. **Fall 2020 student success and grades:** Chair Echevarria and Vice Chair Cardany met with Student Senator and Academic Affairs Committee Chair, Thomas McGrath, regarding the possibility for an alternative grading system for the fall semester. The unique extenuating circumstances of the previous semester which precipitated the alternative grading system were explained and clarified, as was the fact that the current semester does not present the same circumstances.

8. **Emeriti status for administrators:** Senator Barbour relayed a concern regarding the emeriti status for administrators. University Manual language suggests that an administrator who returns to the faculty would not be eligible for emeriti status as either an administrator or as a faculty member. The Committee discussed the matter

and will make suggestions to the administration for possible changes in the University Manual language.

9. Pending and upcoming issues:

a. Graduate School: Postponing changes to the University Manual regarding Graduate School until a permanent dean was in place was discussed. Senator Morokoff stated that some of the changes are urgent and should be considered. The Executive Committee will continue discussion on this matter.

b. College approvals (course equivalencies, General Education): Chair Echevarria explained that there are inconsistencies in the evaluation of transfer credits, particularly general education courses, between colleges. It is important for colleges to use a consistent method of evaluation. Conversation on this topic will continue.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

