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## FSEC Minutes November 4, 2020

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)**  
**Meeting #24 Minutes November 4, 2020 via Zoom**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) meeting was called to order at 1:39 PM by Senate President Echevarria. Senate Vice President Cardany, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, and Welters were in attendance. Guest: President Dooley
  
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**
  1. Due to the Strategic Budget and Planning Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesdays, the weekly FSEC meetings will now be 1:30 to 3 PM.
  2. The FSEC reviewed and finalized faculty nominations for the Administrator Evaluation Committees of Dean Boughida, Dean Ebrahimpour, and Dean Larrat. The FS Coordinator will follow-up and confirm their acceptance of the nomination to serve on the respective committees.
  3. The Intellectual Property Committee will be sharing information in the near future for FSEC review and feedback regarding a proposed policy change. Depending on the nature of the proposed changes, President Echevarria might organize a meeting between FSEC and a representative from the Intellectual Property Committee.
  4. The Senate President and Vice President had a successful meeting with Director of General Education DiCioccio and discussed various topics relating to the Director's collaborative work with the Faculty Senate, and to the assessment and potential future evolution and continued improvement of the General Education program.
  5. The Senate President and Vice President plan to organize a meeting with Director of Online and Distance Learning Goldsmith to discuss the mandate from NECHE to demonstrate that faculty assigned to teach online courses are qualified to teach in that modality. The potential advantages of inviting AAUP Executive Director Walsh to such a meeting were also discussed.
  
3. **MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DOOLEY** President Dooley joined the meeting at 2:01 PM. The President reported on COVID-19, commending students' response to the challenges and their exemplary behavior. He also underscored that faculty have provided a tremendous level of help and support to students. President Dooley affirmed that he is impressed about how well the semester has been progressing and noted that COVID-19 planning is ongoing as the community prepares for the Spring semester.  
**URI Budget** The President provided an update about the uncertain budgetary situation, which will be influenced largely by United States congressional actions

and possible changes in Rhode Island legislative leadership. The URI budget request includes a two and a half percent increase for in-state and out-of-state tuition and a request for an increase in state appropriations. The President emphasized that the budget is sound, with no large reductions or payouts, and noted that URI is currently positioned much more favorably than many other institutions. The President gave an overview of budgetary priorities for the short and long term, emphasizing that the institution has not affected a hiring freeze but rather continues to invest in the future. The goal is to strategically situate URI in a healthier and more successful position when the country emerges from the COVID-19 crisis.

**Board of Trustees (BOT)** The President reported on the recent two-day BOT meeting, noting that the BOT has sincerely enjoyed working with both students and faculty. The President mentioned attending a meeting of the BOT Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee, where Provost DeHayes and CED Director Almandrez made a presentation on the institutional priority of diversity, equity, and inclusion; they also presented in a plenary session of the entire Board. He reiterated that the BOT wants to empower the institution to be nimble with decision making.

**Presidential Search Process** The President spoke of the ongoing search to find the ideal person to succeed him as president of URI. John Isaacson is coming back to URI eleven and a half years after having recruited President Dooley, to help us find our next president. The President commented on the changes that have occurred at URI during his tenure, emphasizing the tremendous level of collaboration and of collective energy and effort that made these achievements possible: extraordinary growth, increased enrollment rates and research opportunities, and capital improvements.

The President and the FSEC discussed the BOT notification and approval process. The President highlighted that the BOT understandably has a keen interest in learning about what proposals are being considered early in the development process and well before the Faculty Senate submits them to the BOT for approval or notice. The intent is to make certain that there is open communication between the faculty and the BOT for the purpose of maximizing smooth, harmonious, and successful approval processes by making certain that any potential questions from the BOT may be brought to the proposer's attention before the proposal has been completely finalized.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 3 PM.