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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)
Minutes of Meeting #25 November 12, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM by the FSEC President Echevarria. FS Vice President Cardany, Senators Hicks, Morokoff, Welters, and Barbour were present.

2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**
 - a. FS President Echevarria announced that the Presidential position profile document that the Advisory Committee created has been approved by the Search Committee and is now posted on the Presidential Search website. She urged the FSEC to review the profile and feel free to share any feedback.
 - b. FS President Echevarria reported on the recent meeting with Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost Veeger, and Vice President Cardany.
 - i. Updates:
 - a. Vice Provost Veeger provided an update on the current status of the purchase of the CMS.
 - b. The FS President and Vice President provided an update on their recent meeting with the Director of General Education.
 - c. The FS President and Vice President discussed their intent to meet with Diane Goldsmith, Director of Online and Distance Learning, to discuss the NECHE mandate relating to faculty qualifications for teaching online courses.
 - ii. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice. The FS President mentioned to the Provost that FSEC had discussed the idea of examining the possibility of creating a dedicated scholarship for members of the Narragansett tribe. He showed strong support for the idea and shared details about URI's strong interest and existing efforts to recruit Narragansett tribe members enrolled at local high schools.
 - iii. The FS President and Vice President also discussed with the Provost issues relating to Fall 2020 student success and recent inquiries about whether or not URI was considering an alternative grading scheme. They compared the current semester to the abrupt transition experienced during the Spring 2020 semester and agreed that the current circumstances are fundamentally different. The Provost highlighted the hundreds of laptop computers that URI had distributed to students and

also underscored that the number of inquiries about these issues that have reached his office is quite low.

- iv. The FS President mentioned how grateful FSEC is to John Stringer, Director of the Office of Institutional Research, who has supplied FSEC with faculty demographic information.
- v. The Provost announced that two Dean searches will be commencing soon. Dean Kirby will chair the search committee for the Dean of the College of Engineering, and Dean Rolle will chair the search committee for a Dean of the Graduate School. The FSEC discussed possible faculty to nominate to serve on each of the committees and will continue the discussion at the next meeting in order to finalize nominees.
- c. Vice President Cardany provided a brief overview to update President Echevarria on discussions that took place at the recent Joint Committee on Academic Programs (JCAP) meeting, attended by several FSEC members. The Committee discussed an early alert process through which JCAP could provide information to the URI BOT on upcoming program proposals. There was not a clear resolution of the issue at the JCAP meeting. The Faculty Senate Specialist suggested the BOT could use the Proposal Tracker to follow new programs. The FS Vice President will review and revise the proposal form and send it to the Provost for input. A motion was approved by the FSEC to draft a statement to the Provost sharing their concerns about the current proposal under consideration by JCAP.
- d. The FS President asked the FSEC to review the documents forwarded from the Intellectual Property Committee (IPC). The IPC is looking to make changes to the existing Intellectual Property Policy and would like the FSEC to provide feedback.
- e. The FS President received a message from the College of Arts and Sciences concerning a college committee that they plan to create to study the C3 General Education requirement. The FS President has made the Chair of the General Education Committee aware of the communication. On behalf of the Senate, the FS President will craft a letter in response.
- f. The FS President reported that the Provost has requested that FSEC provide feedback on the College Diversity Planning document.
- g. The FS President discussed URI 101 with Senator Kincaid, the Chair of the Curriculum and Standards Committee. He will bring it to the full Committee for discussion.
- h. The Faculty Senate Coordinator provided an update on the Administrator Evaluations.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The corrected and revised minutes of FSEC Meeting #20, on October 7, 2020, FSEC Meeting #21, on October 14, 2020, FSEC Meeting #23, on October 28, 2020, and FSEC Meeting #24, on November 4, 2020, were approved.
 - b. The corrected and revised minutes of the FS Meeting #2 of October 15, 2020, were approved.
4. Senator Hicks, Chair of the Constitution, Bylaws, and University Manual Committee submitted changes to the University Manual concerning the Board of Trustees' governance to the FSEC for review. FSEC agreed with all changes. The FS Coordinator will send the document to the Provost and President for their review and recommendation before a vote by the Faculty Senate.
5. The FSEC reviewed and discussed the corrected and revised agenda for the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting on November 19, 2020. The Faculty Senate Office will accept all of the revisions and corrections and submit the final draft to the FS President for a final proofreading and review. The FS Coordinator will send the agenda and invitation to the meeting on Monday afternoon.
6. The meeting adjourned at 3:36 PM.