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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

Meeting #30 December 16, 2020

Minutes

1. **CALL TO ORDER** President Echevarria called the Zoom meeting to order at 1:30. Vice President Cardany, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, and Welters were present. Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Veeger joined the meeting at 2 PM.
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**
 - a. The FS Coordinator reported that the process of creating all of the AE Committees is now complete. The last meeting with AE Coordinator Nassersharif and the AE Committee for Dean Boughida is being organized.
 - b. The FSEC debriefed FS meeting #4 of December 10. President Echevarria will send a message on behalf of the FSEC to faculty reminding them of the continuing needs of Rhody Outpost and the Student First Fund.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** were postponed to the next meeting.
4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - a. Since the Senate's approval of expanded access to the second grade option on November 25th, there has been discussion about an issue relating to GPA requirements for graduation with honors. When students use the second grade option, the first grade earned for the course is not calculated as part of the overall GPA. However, that first grade is included in calculations used to determine eligibility for graduation with honors (magna cum laude, summa cum laude). President Echevarria will contact Associate Director of Enrollment Services Humprey for data before possibly recommending that a committee examine the issue more closely.
 - b. The FSEC briefly discussed the current and proposed revisions of the Intellectual property policy and discussed what constitutes ownership of intellectual property in the context of online courses.
 - c. The FSEC briefly discussed Emeriti status for administrators.
5. **Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Veeger** joined the meeting at 2 PM.
 - a. **Diversity, equity, and inclusion.** The Provost reported on the meeting of the Diversity Task Force. The Provost mentioned the presentations by Professor Rogers, Executive Director of Inclusive Excellence for the College of Business (COB), and Professor Oyanedel-Craver, of the College of Engineering (COE) led. The COB approach is ensuring that diversity is implemented across the curriculum, which then will ensure it becomes

part of the learning culture. The COE approach has focused on understanding community needs when devising a plan.

President Echevarria suggested that Chair Sodhi of the Teaching Advising and Assessment (TAA) Committee connect with the Diversity Council and Professors Oyanedel-Craver and Rogers. There was also a discussion on strengthening the presence of diversity and inclusion throughout the General Education program and throughout major curricula, efforts that will be critical to bringing about meaningful change.

- b. **Dean's College Diversity Planning document.** Discussion on issues related to justice, diversity, equity and inclusion ensued via a conversation about the current draft of a College Diversity Planning document that was developed in the context of a deans' retreat several months earlier. FSEC agreed that the Dean's College Diversity Planning document is a vital pathway forward in the right direction. The Provost and FSEC agreed that, while our community has made important progress in some areas, important and difficult work lies ahead.
- c. **Academic Summit** The Provost reported that the Academic Summit in January is moving forward with over 425 people registered.
- d. **Kuali implementation** Vice Provost Veeger announced that the Curriculum Management System (CMS) contract was awarded to Kuali. Vice President Cardany will convene an implementation team with support from the Provost's office to carry out the process of implementing the new system. The FSEC thanked the Provost and Vice Provost for their support in procuring the CMS.
- e. **Spring 2021 planning** The Provost discussed plans for Spring 2021. Students will return to campus on January 19th and, in order to make it possible for all to follow quarantine mandates, all classes will be delivered remotely for the first four days of the semester (26-29). Beginning February 1st, instructional delivery will proceed as originally scheduled and planned.

6. The meeting adjourned at 3:13 PM.