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## FSEC Minutes January 15, 2021

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)**  
**Meeting #32 January 15, 2021, 10:00-11:30am**  
**MINUTES**

1. President Echevarria called the zoom meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Vice President Cardany, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, and Welters were present.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:**

a. President Echevarria reported that she and Vice President Cardany met with URI Board of Trustees member Rouse, Chair of the Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee, regarding the Board of Trustee program proposal approval process.

b. President Echevarria asked the Executive Committee liaisons for an update of their discussions with the faculty senate committee chairs regarding the university's justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiative. The Executive Committee suggested inviting all faculty senate committee chairs to a meeting to discuss the work each committee is doing and how the committees can work collaboratively.

President Echevarria relayed the information she received from Director Stringer, Institutional Research Office, that the data used by his office comes directly from what is self-reported to Human Resources by the faculty/staff member upon hire. A suggestion was made for the Committee to send a notification reminding faculty that they can go to the eCampus Human Resources Access ([web.uri.edu/ecampus/human-resources-access/](http://web.uri.edu/ecampus/human-resources-access/)) to review their information for accuracy and updating.

c. The Committee discussed the program and the robust interest for the upcoming Academic Summit focusing on Antiracism at URI: Academic Curriculum and Pedagogy with Ibram Kendi, author of *How to be an Antiracist* as the special guest.

- d. The Committee discussed the RI Open Textbook initiative which encourages faculty to use open educational resources rather than texts which can be costly. The President emphasized the importance of gathering accurate information as this is a state driven initiative. The FSEC will continue to work with Vice Provost Veeger on this matter.
- e. President Echevarria delivered the Faculty Senate Office report prepared by the Coordinator who was unable to attend the meeting. A new student has been hired to assist the Faculty Senate office.

A notification was sent requesting nominations for the Nominating Committee, which needs to be approved at the January Faculty Senate meeting. As no nominations had been received, the Executive Committee discussed possible candidates. President Echevarria will contact the senators suggested.

The report included a reminder that President Dooley was scheduled to attend the next FSEC meeting.
3. Approval of the FSEC and Faculty Senate meeting minutes were postponed until the next meeting.
4. Vice President Cardany reported that in reviewing the University Manual, she found some items in chapters 5 and 8 that required review and possible revisions. Previous changes to the By-Laws regarding committees had not been made in other chapters of the University Manual.

Vice President Cardany pointed out that the University Manual stipulates that faculty senate committee chairs are required to give reports at specific times. Senator Hicks suggested that a list of these reports be developed. The Executive Committee noted that the Faculty Senate Coordinator should be updating, rewriting, and maintaining the committee pamphlets as needed, as well as be cognizant of the University Manual in its entirety, particularly when revisions are recommended.
5. Vice President Cardany reported on the status of a meeting with representatives of the Quali team held on January 13, 2021. Plans for implementation of the Curriculum

Management System were discussed. She reported that names were needed for project sponsor, project lead, technical lead, and project participants. Vice President Cardany expressed that as this is a Faculty Senate initiative supported by the Provost's Office, the faculty senate coordinator and specialist should be involved. President Echevarria pointed out that the roles of Faculty Senate President and Vice President were revolving positions but the coordinator and specialist positions were constant to the office. The Committee discussed the positions, levels of responsibility, knowledge required, and timeline of the different roles and tasks.

6. The Faculty Executive Committee discussed Faculty Senate membership, the definition of general faculty, and the differences between the University Manual and the union contracts in definitions and the number of years non-tenured faculty are hired. The Committee agreed that University Manual Chapter 7, Faculty and Staff, should be reviewed.

A motion was made and approved to extend the meeting until 11:45 a.m.

During discussion, President Echevarria shared information she gathered on senate membership at [peer institutions](#) and asked the committee to consider this information for future conversations on membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Submitted by Joanne Lawrence