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University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "FSEC Minutes January 19, 2021" (2021). *Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas and Minutes*. Paper 274.

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)
Meeting #33 January 19, 2021, 9:30-11:00 AM Via Zoom

Minutes

- 1. Call to order** President Echevarria called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Present were Vice President Cardany and Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, and Welters. President Dooley entered the meeting at 9:40 AM.

- 2. Meeting with President Dooley**
 - a. President Echevarria inquired about the current status of the review of the University Manual changes regarding changes from the Council on Postsecondary Education to the URI Board of Trustees. President Dooley reported that Executive Director of External Relations and Communications Kelly Mahoney is reviewing the Manual changes. The President Echevarria will contact Director Mahoney regarding a status update.
 - b. President Dooley addressed faculty concerns regarding General Flynn's honorary degree. The Honorary Degree Committee will meet to discuss the matter and make a recommendation to President Dooley. President Dooley will then take the Committee's decision under advisement and present it to the Board of Trustees for their consideration and approval.
 - c. President Dooley updated the FSEC on the up-coming Academic Summit with Dr. Kendi, noting his firm belief that this Academic Summit is likely to be a signature moment for the University community.
 - d. President Dooley is optimistic about Lieutenant Governor McKee taking over the role of Governor. URI's strengths align closely with the Lieutenant Governor's priorities, such as growing business in Rhode Island.
 - e. President Dooley lauded the URI community's response to COVID-19 last semester and reported that, with the new strain of COVID-19, we would have to continue and intensify our efforts. He cited a robust plan of COVID-19 testing for students, faculty and staff, noting that URI could soon have its own in-house testing capabilities. President Dooley also noted plans for continued contact tracing during the spring semester. President Dooley also spoke with optimism about vaccination efforts that are already underway.
 - f. President Echevarria asked about enrollment for the spring semester and the enrollment outlook for fall 2021. President Dooley reported that Vice Provost Libutti is working effectively to overcome significant enrollment challenges.
 - g. President Dooley also spoke with reserved optimism about the budget outlook, considering the unique challenges the university currently faced. Lieutenant Governor

McKee will present the FY22 RI Budget to the General Assembly in March. The likelihood of additional federal stimulus monies under President Biden are an additional source of hope for the FY22 budget. President Dooley stated that hiring continues, in a cautiously strategic manner, as investment in critical areas is key to the institution's success. President Dooley also spoke of the statewide special election that will take place on Tuesday, March 2. Bond Issue #1 includes funding for the URI Fine Arts Building. President Dooley urged everyone to vote yes on #1 and to spread the word on the special election of March 2, 2021.

The President left the meeting at 10:36 AM.

3. The FSEC reviewed the minutes of the Faculty Senate December 10, 2020 meeting to be presented at the January 28, Faculty Senate meeting.
4. The FSEC reviewed the agenda for the upcoming January 28, 2021, Faculty Senate meeting.
5. The FSEC discussed the potential slate of Faculty Senators for the Nominating Committee, to be presented and voted upon at the January 28 Faculty Senate meeting. FS President Echevarria will reach out to Senators identified as possible candidates for the Nominating Committee.
6. The FSEC postponed the approval minutes to the next FSEC meeting.
7. The meeting adjourned at 11:21 AM.