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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)
Meeting #36 February 9, 2021, 9:30-11:00am
Via Zoom**

MINUTES

1. President Echevarria called the Zoom meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Vice President Cardany, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, and Welters were present.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- a. President Echevarria explained that Coordinator Benz would be out on leave for 30 days. Authorization for the specialist to work extended hours has been permitted.
- b. President Echevarria updated the committee on the meeting she and Vice President Cardany had with Vice Provost Veeger.

Scenarios for the URI May Commencement were discussed as well as the plans peer institutions were considering. Vice Provost Veeger recommended that the Executive Committee contact the Commencement Committee to convey their ideas and thoughts. The Executive Committee discussed President Echevarria reaching out to the Presidents of the Student Senate and Graduate Student Senate for them to also contact the Commencement Committee to convey student input.

President Echevarria gave the Committee an update on the searches for the dean positions for the College of Engineering and the Graduate School. The position description for dean of the College of Engineering has been created. The Graduate School search has not progressed at the same speed.

The delivery of the fall 2021 semester was discussed. A degree of flexibility can be achieved by utilizing a blended course format. Committee discussion included if a new level of approval is needed for blended courses.

University College for Academic Success (UCAS) advising, professional and faculty advisors, military applicants, and the academic summit was discussed in

relation to achieving goals related to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI).

- c. Senator Morokoff announced that the first meeting of the Nominating Committee will be Tuesday, February 9th. No nominations for the vice president/president elect position have been received. President Echevarria suggested that potential candidates contact their dean regarding workload release issues. Senator Morokoff reminded the Committee that the elections for the replacement of Executive Committee members will be held in May.

3. MINUTES

- a. The FS Meeting #5 January 28, 2021 minutes were approved with the revisions provided.
- b. The rewritten and revised minutes of FSEC Meeting #33, January 19, 2021, FSEC Meeting #34, January 26, 2021, and FSEC Meeting #35, February 2, 2021 were approved.
- c. The minutes for the FSEC Meeting #29, December 9, 2020, FSEC Meeting #30, December 16, 2020, and FSEC Meeting #31, December 23, 2020 were postponed.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Senator Hicks discussed the items from the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual (CBUM) Committee to be presented to the Senate at the February 18, 2021 meeting.

The Administrative Report from President Dooley and Provost DeHayes on updated URI Board of Trustees (BOT) language for University Manual, Chapter 1 was discussed and will be presented by Senator Hicks at the February meeting.

Vice President Cardany found that updates recommended by the Special Committee for Curricular Committee Structure Refinement were not made to the University Manual as needed; changes were only made in the By-Laws. These University Manual changes in multiple sections of chapters 5 and 8 were approved by CBUM and will be presented at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Senator Hicks discussed the revisions to the University Manual regarding the definition of the General Faculty. These revisions will be presented at the February Faculty Senate meeting. This definition does not include any changes to membership of the Faculty Senate.

- b. President Echevarria presented the draft agenda for the February Faculty Senate Meeting. No additions were required.
- c. President Echevarria briefly touched on motions likely to come forward from CBUM or FSEC at March and April FS meetings. These included changes to gender neutrality language in numerous locations in the University Manual (UM) graduate school issues including defining graduate faculty status, creating ABM language, and incorporating other graduate school policies and language into the UM.
- d. Discussion of course equivalencies, specifically transfer credit, prior approval for study abroad, and proficiency exams was moved to future meetings.
- e. President Echevarria briefly mentioned several pending issues that she would like the Executive Committee to discuss. Senator Welters requested plagiarism software be added to the list.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.