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University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "FSEC Minutes March 23, 2021" (2021). *Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas and Minutes*. Paper 283.

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)
Meeting #42 March 23, 2021, 9:30-11:00am
Via Zoom**

Minutes

1. **CALL TO ORDER** President Echevarria called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Vice President Cardany, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, Welters, and Vice President-elect Rice were present.

2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**
 - a. The FSEC welcomed back the Faculty Senate Coordinator.
 - b. President Echevarria and Vice President Cardany met with the Provost and Vice Provost to discuss proposed University Manual changes from the Centers Subcommittee. During the meeting and in anticipation of the Faculty Senate meeting later the same day, the Provost mentioned concerns that Student Senate leaders had shared with them. President Echevarria mentioned the joint message that Vice President Cardany was trying to craft with Student Senate leaders and Provost DeHayes expressed interest in serving as co-signatory of a community message calling for compassion.
 - c. Vice President Cardany will meet with a Student Senate Representative to draft a joint Faculty Senate / Student Senate message to the URI community reiterating the need for compassion and understanding for the wellbeing of students and faculty. The Executive committee discussed the Provost's willingness to also be part of the message.

3. **MINUTES:** The Minutes of [Meeting #41](#), March 16, 2021 were approved with revision. The Minutes of [FS Meeting #7](#), March 18, 2021 were approved.

4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - a. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) reviewed the Agenda for Change and provided comments and recommendations. The FS Coordinator will create a

report of the comments and recommendations for the FSEC. The FSEC will review the feedback on the document before forwarding it to the Provost.

b. President Echevarria proposed inviting former FSEC members to serve on a selection committee to determine how to distribute the funding available to senators through the generous donation by President Dooley and Rev. Lynn Baker-Dooley.

c. President Echevarria and the FSEC discussed what preparations are needed for the last two Faculty Senate (FS) meetings of the academic year.

Tasks and considerations for the April 15th meeting include:

- i. Chair of the Nominating Committee Morokoff will call for nominations to fill the vacancies on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC). She will submit a nominee list to the Executive Committee by April 20th. Elections will occur at the April 29th FS meeting.
- ii. The second reading and vote on the proposal to modify the apportionment system and expand Faculty Senate membership will take place.
- iii. It is possible that the University Manual revisions from the Centers subcommittee will be presented. President Echevarria has asked the FS Coordinator to review the language and propose edits to make the language more inclusive of Centers that are externally funded.
- iv. President Echevarria has also asked the FS Coordinator to review the draft of gender-neutral language from the Constitution, By-laws and University Manual (CBUM) Committee, limiting the use of pronouns altogether in order to avoid potential ambiguities.
- v. The FS Coordinator will confirm if the Director of the Office of Innovation in General Education will be presenting the Excellence in General Education Awards. She will also contact the Chair of the Research and Creative Activities Committee to confirm if, in addition to the final

year-end presentation on April 29, the committee also plans to present on April 15.

FS April 29th meeting:

- i. Election to FSEC vacancies will be held; Vice Provosts Bodah and Veeger need to be consulted regarding counting of the votes.
 - ii. The FS Coordinator will create draft guidelines for FSEC to present to the FS Standing Committees Chairs for their presentations and written reports, including due date(s) for slides, and written reports.
 - iii. The FS Coordinator will prepare draft resolutions to express: 1) appreciation for President Dooley and all he has done during his tenure at URI, and 2) to reflect the faculty commitment to anti-racism. FSEC will review drafts at an upcoming meeting. Other potential recognitions proposed by President Echevarria will be discussed.
 - iv. President Echevarria inquired about inviting additional special guests including URI Board of Trustees Chair Cook, and the new URI president. She asked the FSEC for additional suggestions.
- d. The FSEC discussed the revisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Provost and the Faculty Senate. Discussion included the possibility of including funding to compensate members of the Curriculum and Standards and General Education committees for summer meetings, thus allowing the curriculum process to continue after the academic year ends. The Committee discussed the feasibility of having funds allocated to the FS budget to finance workload adjustments; offering committee chairs a choice of workload adjustment for teaching or professional development funds; and what changes would be required in the senate transition timing to allow for curriculum reports to be presented at the final senate meeting.
- e. President Echevarria asked Senator Welters for an update on the College of Business concerns about fall 2021 space, teaching modalities, and online

approval process. Senator Welters affirmed that the College of Business concerns have been addressed.

President Echevarria introduced a discussion on academic integrity and “Turnitin” plagiarism software. She reminded the Committee of Senator Izenstark’s concerns of utilizing plagiarism software, including the encouragement of a “guilty until proven innocent” attitude, accuracy issues, false positive findings, and intellectual property issues. President Echevarria reminded the Committee that the Teaching, Advising and Assessment Committee planned to work on issues related to academic integrity over the 2021-2022 academic year. Senator Welters confirmed that a faculty member in the College of Business had requested that the software be purchased and that it is possible that the College will purchase the licenses for its own faculty.

- f. President Echevarria noted that President Dooley will be attending the FSEC ‘s March 30th meeting and invited members to email any items that they would like to discuss with him.
5. The meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM.