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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)
Meeting #44 April 6, 2021 and April 7, 2021
9:30-11:00am
Via Zoom**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

President Echevarria called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Vice President Cardany, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, Welters, and Vice President/President-elect Rice were in attendance.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- a. President Echevarria reported that the Presidential search committee had met. A recommendation to the URI's Board of Trustees is expected shortly.
- b. President Echevarria discussed with Director Mahoney, External Relations and Communications, the drafting of an institutional response to two bills, Biliteracy Seal for College Credit and Concurrent Enrollment Courses, being presented to the State. As there are serious concerns with this legislation, President Echevarria would welcome an opportunity to open dialog on those concerns.
- c. President Echevarria and Vice President Cardany met with curriculum chairs Kincaid and Mead regarding upcoming year-end committee reports to the Faculty Senate. Recommendations included ideas of what the Committees discussed and learned, what actions were taken, what their goals are, and recommendations of how to continue moving forward.
- d. President Echevarria and Vice President Cardany reported on the meeting with Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Veeger. Discussion included 1) feedback on the Agenda for Change document, particularly questions regarding the title. The Provost expressed a willingness to revise the language and share those changes; 2) the Memorandum of Understanding for Senate workload; and 3) a call for compassion for students and faculty.
- e. President Echevarria and Vice President Cardany have been invited to present at the April 23, 2021 meeting of the URI Board of Trustees.

- f. President Echevarria and Vice President Cardany have been invited to participate in meetings with the Faculty Senate leadership teams from the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) and Rhode Island College (RIC).
- g. Letters regarding faculty senate apportionment and college elections have been sent to colleges. The College of Health Sciences inquired if hires in the pipeline could count toward their apportionment. Apportionment numbers are configured on current faculty numbers not anticipated numbers. Vice President/President-elect Rice asked Coordinator Benz to forward him the information for the College of Environment and Life Sciences as he handles the college elections.

3. MINUTES: [Meeting #43 March 30, 2021](#) were approved as edited and rewritten.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. President Echevarria relayed that former Faculty Senate members Nassersharif, Gindy, and Honhart agreed to serve on a Committee to determine guidelines for the expenditure of the gift to the Faculty Senate created by Dr. Dooley and Rev. Baker-Dooley. The Executive Committee suggested that President Echevarria relinquish her role on the fund committee for two reasons including to avoid any conflict of interest, and in order to be eligible to be a recipient. She agreed to step down.
- b. President Echevarria thanked Coordinator Benz for creating draft report guidelines for committee chairs in regard to their committee's year-end presentations at the April 29th Faculty Senate meeting.
- c. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) discussed the April 15 Faculty Senate Meeting:
 - i. The FSEC apportionment and membership proposal will be presented for a vote at the meeting. President Echevarria is awaiting information from Senator Izenstark regarding the suggestion of instituting a 2-faculty senator minimum for smaller units/colleges. President Echevarria mentioned that she had heard from AAUP President Reumann who offered to provide AAUP endorsement for the proposal if warranted.

- ii. Senator Hicks reported that the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual (CBUM) Committee is still working on revisions to the gender neutral language in the University Manual.
- iii. It was confirmed that work on the changes to the University Manual language submitted by the Center Review Subcommittee is ongoing. She agreed to draft proposed language for consideration by the committee chairs and anticipated meeting again with Chairs Roman and Eaton.
- iv. President Echevarria introduced a proposal from Dean Graney for the creation of a Bereavement policy. Vice President Cardany volunteered to reach out and take the lead on this.
- v. The FSEC discussed the draft agenda for the April 15, 2021 Faculty Senate meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. with an additional meeting scheduled for April 7th at 10:30 a.m.

April 7, 2021: Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Echevarria. Vice President Cardany, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, Welters, and Vice President/President-elect Rice were present.

- d. President Echevarria asked Faculty Senate Specialist Lawrence to discuss curriculum timing issues. Discussion included the history and ramifications of curriculum reports no longer being presented at the final Faculty Senate meeting, URI catalog due dates, and possible time conflicts in final approval process of program changes and new programs. The FSEC discussed the curriculum timing issues, new senators voting at their initial meeting, and the possibility of changing the format of the final Faculty Senate meeting.
- e. President Echevarria discussed the status of collaborations with the Provost on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). She relayed to the Provost that the committee restructuring reduced the number of eligible people for work release as well as the difficulty of being a committee chair with no workload reduction. Summer funding for committee work was also discussed.

The FSEC discussed the worth of the work done by the committees and the importance of valuing service for promotion and tenure. A suggestion was made for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to have a joint meeting with the AAUP Executive Committee to discuss the importance and value of faculty service.

The Agenda for Change was discussed and the importance of having language that encourages participation and willingness to proceed. The FSEC stressed the need for acceptance - individuals are in different places and need to be met at their level and guided forward.

- f. Senator Morokoff reported on the revisions to her UDC Curriculum report. Discussion will continue.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 with the remaining agenda items carried forward.