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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)
Meeting #45 April 13, 2021, 9:00-11:00am
Via Zoom

Minutes

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM by President Echevarria. Senate Vice President Cardany and Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, Welters, and Vice President-elect Rice were present.

2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:**
 - a. President Echevarria met with former FS Chair Nassersharif and Senators Gindy and Honhart to discuss the President's Fund for the Faculty Senate. The FS President will consult with President Dooley for clarification on his intentions for the fund.
 - b. The President, Vice President, and the FS Specialist met with Chairs Roman and Eaton of the Research and Creative Activities Committee and Centers Subcommittee to discuss the revisions to the University Manual language on Centers. The Center's language was made more inclusive and separated into distinct actions.
 - c. Senator Morokoff spoke with Senator Pearson-Merkowitz, Chair of the Committee on Technology and Infrastructure regarding the anonymous survey the committee has prepared. Chair Pearson-Merkowitz would like to present the survey at the April 15th Faculty Senate meeting and has asked if senators could take it during the meeting. The FSEC recommended Senator Pearson-Merkowitz's presentation be scheduled as the last piece of business, allowing for Senators to complete the survey prior to leaving the meeting.
 - d. The FS President met with Senator Izenstark on the Senate reapportionment and membership proposal. Senator Izenstark reported her colleagues' concerns with the current representation of only one Senator for the University library. Senator Izenstark underscored the fact that library faculty consistently serve all colleges, but is itself a small unit. Senator Izenstark suggested a minimum representation of at least two senators for all units or colleges. .

- e. The FSEC would like to meet with the AAUP Executive Committee before the end of the academic year. The FS Coordinator will reach out to the AAUP Executive Director and the President of the AAUP to set up a meeting.

3. MINUTES: The minutes of Meeting #44, April 6th - were postponed.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. The FSEC continued discussion on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for faculty leadership and committee work. An idea of having the Faculty Senate Office funded to cover the release time was proposed. The FSEC feels strongly that significant service contributions and leadership should be given the same level and seriousness of consideration as teaching and research in promotion decisions. The MOU should specifically include the recognition and acknowledgment of the importance and value of service as a critical element for promotion and tenure.
- b. Senator Morokoff reported she had assimilated previous feedback from the FSEC into the revised UDC curriculum report.
- c. After consultation, the FSEC chose the recipients for the Sheila Black Grubman and the Fritz Wenisch Awards. Winners of each award will be named at the last Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year.

5. Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Veeger joined the meeting at 10 AM.

- a. Justice, equity, diversity and inclusion
 - i. Reactions to Provost Blake's withdrawal from the presidential search were discussed as well as the confidence in the experience and commitment to diversity that Dr. Palange will bring to the University.
 - ii. In discussion of the Agenda for Change, President Echevarria relayed the persistence of comments of Asian-Americans feeling excluded based upon the title, "Anti-Black Racism at URI: An Academic Affairs Action Agenda for Change." Provost DeHayes explained that the first paragraph has been rewritten and the intent is not to exclude any marginalized groups. The FSEC expressed their agreement in importance of a title that captures its true intent and the content of the document. Vice Provost

Veeger and Executive Committee members offered and discussed alternative titles. Provost DeHayes, Vice Provost and FSEC agreed it would be best to confer with the original group of faculty who worked on creating the Agenda for Change. The Provost thanked the Executive Committee for their input and will continue to keep President Echevarra and Vice President Cardany informed. The FSEC expressed their thanks to the Provost and Vice Provost for their work and commitment to this issue.

6. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.