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## FSEC Minutes April 20, 2021

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)  
Meeting #46 April 20, 2021, 9:00-11:00am  
Via Zoom**

**MINUTES**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** President Echevarria called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Vice President Cardany, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, Welters, and Vice President-elect Rice were present.
- 2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES (5 minutes)**
  - a. President Echevarria announced that the Faculty Senate meetings for the 2021-2022 Academic year have been moved to the Hope Room in the Higgins Welcome Center.
  - b. President Echevarria informed the Executive Committee that Travis Williams has agreed to join former Senators Gindy, Honhart, and Nassersharif in serving on the Senate Faculty Fund Committee. A notice to senators is expected to go out on April 20th requesting nominations.
  - c. A meeting with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) and the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Executive Committee is anticipated to take place after the spring 2021 semester.
  - d. President Echevarria explained that according to the By-Laws, the Vice President for Administration and Finance is to present the new operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year at the May Senate meeting. In a communication with Vice President Rider and Director Barrett, it was determined that May is not an optimal time for budget reporting. Further discussions with Director Barrett, Budget and Finance Planning, and on possible changes to the University Manual will be held.
  - e. President Echevarria and the FSEC discussed and clarified the different procedures required for changes to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate, the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate, and the University Manual.
- 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS (5-7 minutes each)**
  - a. As the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate, section 5.1, identifies an organizational meeting in the month of May, President Echevarria suggested May 13th as a possible date; the

FSEC approved May 13th. President Echevarria will reach out to President Dooley to verify his availability.

- b. The FSEC discussed concerns raised by the College of Health Studies (CHS) regarding changes, including scheduling class, at the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies in Providence. The Committee agreed to continue discussion on how to respond to faculty concerns.
- c. President Echevarria initiated discussion on the upcoming referendum regarding senate apportionment and membership. The FSEC suggested explaining why faculty are receiving the referendum and recommended linking the report to the referendum. Coordinator Benz verified that she has created a draft in Qualtrics.
- d. Discussion on the academic year 2021-22 FS meeting schedule was postponed.

**4. President Dooley** joined the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

- a. President Echevarria explained the need for a May organizational meeting of the newly constituted Faculty Senate, as required by the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate. She inquired if President Dooley was available on May 13, 2021, he confirmed his availability.
- b. President Echevarria reviewed University Manual language on emeritus status for administrators explaining the FSEC interpretation of the language is that the term “retirement” refers to the leaving of a position not the institution. President Dooley agreed with this interpretation and cited precedents.
- c. President Dooley updated the FSEC on the status of the Provost search by relaying that Provost DeHayes will continue in his position for a transitional period allowing for Incoming President Parlange to benefit from Provost DeHayes’ institutional knowledge and experience.
- d. President Echevarria asked President Dooley to comment on the Part-time Faculty (PTF) decision to change unions. President Dooley explained that the PTF voted and certified the move from AAUP to align themselves with Council 94.
- e. President Echevarria asked President Dooley for his perceptions of the Providence campus moving forward. She referenced a letter from a faculty member regarding how

to serve underrepresented populations if other colleges were not able to schedule courses. President Dooley recommended that the concerns be directed to Provost DeHayes and Vice Provost Veeger. President Dooley told the Executive Committee that though the relocation of the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic he hopes that these conversations will resume.

President Echevarria and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee thanked President Dooley for his achievements and willingness to participate in the shared governance process. President Dooley thanked President Echevarria for her successful leadership in keeping shared governance strong and effective through the pandemic. He also praised and thanked the FSEC for their willingness, insights, commitment, and active participation in developing and working on COVID plans, justice, equity, diversity and inclusion issues, and maintaining trust with the administration.

President Dooley left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

5. The minutes of Meeting #44, April 6, 2021 were approved. Minutes from Meeting #45, April 13, 2021 were postponed.
6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS (5-10 minutes each)**
  - a. President Echevarria asked the FSEC to review possible changes to University Manual (UM), section 8.27.22 clarifying language relating to course content as faculty member's intellectual property. After discussion, the UM language was expanded to include all course content including syllabi, outlines, presentation slides, lectures, audio and video recordings, lesson plans, class activities, exams, and assignments. Recordings were also added to the list of items that are not permitted to be shared, distributed, or sold without prior written consent of the faculty instructor. The UM language changes were approved.

Vice President Cardany shared information she had gathered regarding intellectual property, including additional sections of the University Manual which may also need revision.

- b. Vice President-elect Rice pointed out that the University Manual sections 3.21.11 and 3.21.17 would need revision as the organizational move of Landscape Architecture, from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College of the Environment and Life Sciences, had been approved on Faculty Senate Bill # 20-21-28C.
- c. The FSEC discussed the Faculty Senate agenda for the April 29, 2021 meeting. Outgoing Senators will be recognized at the April 29th meeting.

It was clarified that the organizational meeting of the newly constituted faculty senate is tentatively scheduled for May 13th, which is when the elections for the FSEC will be held and all awards will be presented.

- d. President Echevarria thanked Vice President Cardany for taking the lead on revising the Bereavement Policy proposed by Dean of Students Dean Graney. Senator Barbour stressed the College of Pharmacy currently has its own policy and wanted to be sure the two policies would not conflict. A suggestion was made to determine if any other colleges had their own bereavement policies also. A suggestion was made for an inquiry to be made at a Council of Deans meeting; President Echevarria will reach out to Vice Provost Veeger. President Echevarria and Vice President Cardany will be meeting with Dean Graney and Assistant Dean of Outreach and Intervention Tisdale to discuss the proposed Bereavement Policy.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.