

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas
and Minutes

Faculty Senate

4-27-2021

FSEC Minutes April 27, 2021

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_execcom

Recommended Citation

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "FSEC Minutes April 27, 2021" (2021). *Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas and Minutes*. Paper 288.

https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_execcom/288

This Meeting Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas and Minutes by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons-group@uri.edu.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)
Meeting #47 April 27, 2021, 9:30-11:00am
Via [Zoom](#)

Minutes

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** President Echevarria called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Vice President Cardany, Vice President-elect Rice, Senators Barbour, Hicks, Morokoff, and Welters were in attendance.
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**
 - a. President Echevarria and Vice President Cardany were invited to present on shared governance at the April 23, 2021 URI Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting. Student Senate President Ramsay and Vice President Ramsay were also invited to present. After giving brief presentations, Trustees asked questions. One Trustee asked for an example of effective cooperation between the Faculty Senate and Student Senate, and Vice President Cardany explained that a joint statement on mental health days had been sent to the University Community. Student Senate President Ramsay reported that she celebrates the co-work. President Echevarria also explained that the Student Senate President is an ex officio member of the Faculty Senate and afforded the same level of power during Senate meetings as the University President and as the Provost.
 - b. Vice President for Administration and Finance Rider spoke with President Echevarria and alerted her to the fact that she would be sharing preliminary versions of Policy on Policies and Policy on Consensual Relationships with the Board of Trustees. VP Rider apologized for not including the Faculty Senate earlier; copies of the policies will be made available to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC).
 - c. President Echevarria asked Coordinator Benz for an update on the scheduling of the FSEC meeting with the AAUP Executive Committee. No definitive time has been set.
 - d. President Echevarria gave the FSEC an update on the status of the Referendum on Senate apportionment and membership. She reported that responses are steadily coming in; FSEC members were asked to remind their college colleagues to respond before the expiration date of Monday, May 3rd.

- e. President Echevarria informed the FSEC that College senate elections are ongoing. The FSEC questioned if the required committee work attached to the Senator position was a deterrent to the recruitment process.
- f. President Echevarria explained that scholarships for members of the Narragansett tribe are continuing to be researched. Senator Hicks mentioned that she thought the University Diversity Council (UDC) was looking into establishing scholarships. Senator Morokoff offered to check on this and report back.
- g. President Echevarria informed the FSEC that Senator Meyerson has contacted Rhode state and federal representatives regarding Juneteenth becoming an official state and federal holiday. Senator Meyerson hopes to present, at the April 29th Faculty Senate meeting, a resolution supporting the Juneteenth holiday, and an op-ed piece co-authored, with Vice President Cardany, at the May 13th meeting.

3. MINUTES

- a. The minutes of Meeting #45, April 13, 2021 were approved.
- b. Meeting #46, April 20, 2021 minutes were not ready for review.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. The FSEC discussed the progress on the Provost-Senate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and summer committee work. In lieu of summer curriculum committee meetings a suggestion was made for initial committee meetings to be held the week prior to the start of classes. Vice President Cardany pointed out that as part of the committee refinement, joint meetings of the Curriculum and Standards Committee (C&SC) and General Education Committee (GEC) are to take place in early fall. President Echevarria recommended seeking the funding for summer meetings in the event that the curriculum committees are willing to meet. She hopes to have the MOU signed within the next 3 weeks.
- b. President Echevarria discussed the URI Land Acknowledgement Statement shared by Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Almandrez. She asked Senator Morokoff to take the lead on continued work on the URI Land Acknowledgement Statement in relation to her work on the University Diversity Council (UDC). Vice President-elect Rice reiterated that the 1862 Morrill Act funds for land grant colleges derived from the sales of federal land in the West, the money received was from

expropriated territory of the Kiowa People in southwestern Kansas. He agreed to edit and comment on the current language. The FSEC discussed the feasibility of having the land acknowledgement on every syllabus and given as a prelude to meetings. Senators Welters reminded the FSEC that there are plans for the Tomaquag Museum to move to the university campus.

- c. Vice President Cardany reinforced that the proposed bereavement policy will support individual college bereavement policies, not replace them. It also establishes an official bereavement policy for colleges without an existing policy. President Echevarria will reach out to assistant deans to express the support of the FSEC.
- d. President Echevarria discussed faculty concerns about General Education Program Assessment. Discussion included suggestions from the curriculum committees that content experts should be involved in the assessment process and the importance of remembering that it is the outcomes of the General Education Program being assessed not the outcomes of individual courses.
- e. President Echevarria expressed concerns regarding Faculty-led programs abroad and the process of designing, approving and evaluating programs being led by one office without Senate oversight or involvement. The FSEC agreed that the Senate should examine this issue more closely. President Echevarria asked each FSEC member to send her a list of words describing President Dooley or his accomplishments to aid her in the preparation of the resolution to honor him.
- f. The FSEC reviewed the draft agenda for the Organizational Meeting of the Newly Constituted Faculty Senate for the 2021-2022 academic year. The meeting will include the nominations and elections for the FSEC, announcement of award winners, and presentations by URI Board of Trustees Chair Cook, and incoming President Palange.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.