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FSEC Minutes July 6, 2021

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)
Meeting #7 - July 6, 2021
9:00-10:30 a.m. Via Zoom

MINUTES

1. President Cardany called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Vice President Rice, Senators Welters, Nassersharif, Meyerson, and Maier-Sperdelozzi were present.
2. Old Business
 - a. There was no old business discussed.
3. Announcements
 - a. President Cardany relayed that the meeting with VP Rice and Board of Trustees (BOT) Faculty Representative Gindy went well. At the last BOT meeting, Representative Gindy asked if national trends related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) were reflected at URI and in Rhode Island. President Cardany explained previously the FSEC had sent a list of faculty names for President Dooley to consider when appointing the faculty representative. It was recommended that the FSEC continue that practice with President Parlange. President Cardany asked the FSEC to consider names of faculty members to recommend to replace Representative Gindy, whose term expires after the spring 2022 semester.
 - b. President Cardany announced that she had met with Vice President Collins, Division of Student Affairs, regarding religious holidays. President Cardany explained that she received an email expressing concern that the fall 2021 semester starts on the last day of Rosh Hashanah. Discussion included the timeline for calendar revisions being 18-months and how faculty and students are notified about their rights to observe religious holidays. The FSEC agreed the Academic Calendar Committee should be alerted to this issue.
 - c. President Cardany reported that she has been invited to the July 15, 2021 Presidential Transition Team meeting. The request for the FS President to be part of the transition team was positively received by Committee Chair McNally.
 - d. President Cardany explained that the Referendum going to the General Faculty in the fall allowing for changes to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate, would contain only two items, revisions to the definition of general faculty and updating manual language to be gender neutral. The third item, changing the By-Laws language for the New Senate Organizational

meeting, does not require any Constitution changes; therefore it can be removed from the Referendum.

- e. President Cardany shared a higher education State Legislation update provided by Interim Executive Director Acciaro of the External Relations and Communications unit. The legislation included the Biliteracy Seal for College Credit, Advanced Placement, and Apprenticeship Pathways to degree bills.
4. Approval of minutes
 - a. The minutes from the FSEC Meeting #6, June 29, 2021 were approved with corrections.
 5. Discussion Items
 - a. President Cardany discussed conversations with Vice Provosts Veeger and Libutti regarding current information on diplomas. Currently the diplomas list only the degree and do not include the major. They explained that the institution receives numerous questions and complaints from students and parents, and that other institutions include majors on diplomas. The FSEC has been asked to consider piloting August printing diplomas to include students' majors; students completing more than one major will receive a diploma for each major. After discussion and offering suggestions on the wording, design, and setup of the diploma, the FSEC voted to approve the August 2021 diplomas to reflect the major as well as the degree. President Cardany will request sample copies of the diplomas be provided once the design has been revised. If the pilot program is successful, the issue will be brought to the Senate.
 - b. President Cardany and VP Rice have a meeting with the Provost and Vice Provost on Thursday, July 8th to discuss the establishment of a faculty senate budget to allow for committee chairs and FSEC members to be compensated for their service work. Senator Nassersharif volunteered to assist as President Cardany as needed.
 - c. Discussion continued on University Manual Appendix G - University Policies. President Cardany will reach out to schedule a meeting with Vice President Rider. The FSEC inquired if the Policy on Policies was ever discussed at the Faculty Senate; the Faculty Senate Specialist was asked to research the matter.
 - d. DEI work
 - i. President Cardany reported that Associate Vice President Almandrez spoke at the June Board of Trustees meeting where the Faculty Senate was commended for the work produced by the committees related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). President Cardany asked the FSEC to review the report(s) from the Committee(s) where they serve as liaison

and develop some suggestions for the Committees to continue moving forward. Senator Meyerson suggested additional conversations to clarify suggestions amongst the FSEC before contacting the committee chairs. The topic will be revisited in August.

- ii. The FSEC discussed recent Investments in DEI made by the University, including distinguished multicultural postdoctoral fellows in anthropology, sociology, and criminal justice, indigenous initiatives, new coordinator and director positions, and the campus climate survey.

6. New Business: There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.