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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)
Meeting #14, August 24, 2021
9:00-10:30 AM, via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Faculty Senate President Cardany called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Vice President Rice and Senators Maier-Sperdelozzi, Meyerson, Nassersharif, and Welters were present. University President Parlange attended the meeting from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

FS President Cardany welcomed University President Parlange to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting. The FSEC members introduced themselves and briefly discussed their areas of expertise and interest.

FS President Cardany complimented the administration's choice of Interim Provost Beauvais and inquired as to the progress of the transition. University President Parlange appreciated the positive feedback and respect for Interim Provost Beauvais. He explained that the process for hiring a permanent provost will move forward with a search firm.

University President Parlange relayed that in his first three weeks everyone, the campus community and the outside community at large, have been welcoming and generous. His first impressions are that everyone likes URI and that there is a lot of pride and desire to see it succeed.

University President Parlange spoke on the COVID-19 vaccination mandate. Students are continuing to update their vaccination records; thus far, over 14,000 students have responded with about 93% having been vaccinated. He discussed the mandatory twice-weekly testing required for all non-vaccinated or exempted students explaining that the goal is to keep all members of the university community safe. Additionally, administration is in discussion with the unions regarding vaccination mandates for faculty and staff. Senator Meyerson asked if quarantining would be required. President Parlange stated that quarantining is not a requirement at this time. Students who test positive will be housed in a hotel that URI has arranged for them. The data on COVID-19, directives from the State, and what other institutions are doing are reviewed every morning and plans will continue to be updated as needed. Faculty Senate President Cardany expressed agreement with the twice-weekly testing mandate. Senator Maier-Sperdelozzi relayed that a student was concerned that the faculty and staff do not have a vaccination mandate while the students do. She also noted that the contact tracing done by Health Services last year was exceptional. President Parlange agreed and credited the outstanding job of Director Reynolds and her staff.

Faculty Senate President Cardany asked President Parlange what his vision, hope, and goals were for the University regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. President Parlange explained that as the current Academic Strategic Plan goes through 2021, work is beginning on the new plan. He stressed the importance of input and feedback from the Faculty Senate on the new strategic plan. President Parlange was happy to hear about the Land Acknowledgment and would like to continue pursuing how best to utilize such a statement. He recommended the book, *A Matter of Truth, The Struggle for African Heritage & Indigenous People Equal Rights in Providence, Rhode Island (1620-2020)*. Senate VP Rice spoke to his meeting and discussion with Narragansett Medicine Man John Brown and Tomaquag Museum Director Loren Spears in May. FS President Cardany asked how the structured approach to the next strategic plan intersects with the Agenda for Change. President Parlange replied that he respects the work already underway and would like to hear and learn more about that work to incorporate with new goals and ideas. FS President Cardany expressed that the Senate was very interested in participating in this process, in particular with Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Almandrez relating to curriculum.

Faculty Senate President Cardany briefly talked about the ITGov Committee which may warrant consideration as a presidential committee and listed in the University Manual. She also broached the subject of University Policies and the University Manual's preamble which dictates policies belong in the Manual. President Parlange has spoken with Provost DeHayes regarding the role of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs being front and center to ensure the correct practices and faculty engagement are being followed. FS President Cardany said she will bring these topics back for further discussion. Senator Meyerson asked President Parlange how he preferred to receive communications from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in the future; he indicated email to him and his administrative assistant. Faculty Senate President Cardany thanked President Parlange for meeting with the FSEC and expressed they look forward to continuing working with him.

President Parlange left the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

2. Announcements

- a. President Cardany requested an update on the FS Coordinator Search. Senator Nassersharif explained that the search committee had a good meeting last week and the position is posted in the Chronicle of Higher Education, the Providence Journal, and Inside Higher Education. He explained that the position would be posted for three weeks. He asked FSEC members to share the job posting with any lists or groups they feel are appropriate.

- b. President Cardany spoke to her meeting with Interim Director Torrens regarding online pedagogy. President Cardany expressed concern over emails from faculty that were being told that synchronous online courses could not be listed as online courses. Interim Director Torrens assured President Cardany that her group would not relay that information, and a miscommunication must have occurred. Interim Director Torrens will explore having training sessions for synchronous online teaching.
3. Approval of minutes
 - a. The revised FSEC Minutes from meeting #13 on August 17, 2021, were approved with one abstention.
4. Discussion Items
 - a. President Cardany asked for a motion for the Faculty Senate (FS) Meetings for the fall 2021 semester to be held via Zoom. A motion was made and seconded. After discussion, Senator Nassersharif asked if the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) meetings would also be moved to a Zoom format. The motion was amended to reflect all fall 2021 FS and FSEC meetings being moved to a remote format via Zoom. The motion was approved.
 - b. President Cardany explained that President Parlange would not be able to attend the FS Orientation Meeting on September 9, 2021, due to a scheduling conflict. Provost DeHayes, Interim Provost Beauvais, and Vice Provost Veeger will be in attendance. The FSEC will discuss the FS Orientation agenda at the August 31, 2021 meeting.
 - c. DEI Committee Charges
 - i. President Cardany explained that she had created a google document to be used by the FSEC liaisons to record their recommendations to the committee chairs regarding the committee's continuing DEI work. This document will be shared with the committee chairs to build upon work begun in the 2020-2021 academic year.
 - i. In response to Chief Diversity Officer Almandrez's request, President Cardany asked the FSEC to review the proposal from the University Diversity Council regarding curriculum recommendations.
 - d. President Cardany explained that VP Rice was working with Dean Boughida regarding the issues with the URI Library, and the non-continuance of Helin, & Humanities Research

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.