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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

Meeting #17, September 10, 2021

1:00PM - 3:00PM, via Zoom

MINUTES

1. President Cardany called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Vice President Rice, Senators Maier-Speredelozzi, Meyerson, Nassersharif, and Welters were present.
2. Old Business
 - a. President Cardany initiated discussion on three inactive joint committees which appear in the University Manual. The committees are the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) Curriculum Committee, the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) Scholastic Standing Committee, and the Providence Campus Undergraduate Initiative Committee. After discussion, Vice President Rice made a motion to delete these sections from the University Manual if these committees are inactive; the FSEC approved the motion. President Cardany will reach out to Interim Dean Dennis for confirmation of the inactivity of these committees. If these committees should be removed from the University Manual, the issue will be referred to the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual (CBUM) Committee.
3. Announcements
 - a. President Cardany relayed to the FSEC that she had the name of an interested faculty member offering to serve on the COVID-19 Task Force. She encouraged the Executive Committee to forward additional names of faculty interested in serving on the task force.
 - b. President Cardany informed the Executive Committee members that all the Faculty Senate Standing Committees Chair appointments have been made. She announced that Senator Amin, from Health Sciences, will chair the Academic Calendar Committee. Senator Maier-Speredelozzi announced that Senator King, from Pharmacy, will chair the Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee (TAAC).
 - c. President Cardany explained that she had a meeting with Professor Moore, who was fact-finding for Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Almandrez on the continuing DEI work of the Faculty Senate committees. In discussing the Faculty Senate Orientation breakout sessions, President Cardany explained that the Curriculum and Standards Committee (CASC) expressed concern about the high volume of proposals and balancing the DEI charges. The

CASC, in their 2020-2021 year-end report, suggested training and incentives for faculty regarding DEI courses; President Cardany recommended for CASC to contact Associate Vice President Almandrez and work with her office to create such an award.

Senator Meyerson reported that she suggested the Academic Calendar Committee continue to investigate having a unified campus calendar.

Vice President Rice relayed his conversation with CBUM where he suggested that the members read the FS standing committees reports to determine if any additions or changes to the University Manual may be warranted.

Senator Welters discussed with the General Education Committee the shortage of C3-Diversity and Inclusion, C2-Global Responsibilities, and A4-Arts and Design outcomes. She recommended working with General Education Director DiCioccio for possible funding for workshops, awards, prizes, etc.

Senator Nassersharif explained that the Research and Creative Activities Committee's Competitive Grants Subcommittee had good ideas for moving forward for those who are developing inclusion and diversity in grants.

Senator Maier-Sperdelozzi explained that she did not attend the Technology and Infrastructure Committee (TECH) as she met with Senator Izenstark prior to the FS Orientation meeting. The TECH committee will be analyzing the survey recommendations gathered during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Senator Maier-Sperdelozzi attended the breakout session for the Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee (TAAC,) where discussion focused on 1) expanding and acting on the suggestions gathered from the faculty focus groups, 2) developing an assessment tool, such as a survey to departments to determine how Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) components are being integrated, and 3) determining what peer institutions are doing and updating the Committee's previous report.

President Cardany expressed her excitement in the DEI work continuing to move forward.

- d. President Cardany told the FSEC that she will be meeting with Dean DeBoef regarding references to Graduate School Faculty Status in the Graduate Handbook and the need for consistency with the University Manual language.

President Cardany asked Senator Nassersharif for an update on the Coordinator position search. Senator Nassersharif explained that the search closes on September 10, 2021 and so far 11 applications had been received. The search committee will be meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021.

4. Approval of minutes

- a. The minutes for meeting #14, August 24, 2021, (approved by President Parlange on September 1, 2021) were approved.
- b. The minutes for meeting #15, August 31, 2021, were approved.
- c. The minutes for meeting #16, September 3, 2021, were approved.

5. Discussion Items

- a. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee continued discussion of University Library services. President Cardany and Vice President Rice met with Dean Boughida discussing staffing shortages, perceptions of the library, and the communication between faculty and library staff. President Cardany asked the FSEC about inviting the library dean to present a report at a Faculty Senate meeting in order to explain what services the library offers, to establish a stronger relationship between the library and faculty, and offer an opportunity for questions. A motion was made and approved to invite Dean Boughida to deliver a report to the Faculty Senate on available library services.
- b. President Cardany communicated to the FSEC that a reorganization of the Learning Outcomes and Oversight Committee (LOOC) is in discussion with Vice Provost Veeger. The Committee has not met in person in four years, the work has been done via email. One suggestion for the reorganization is to move the proposal review process to a Faculty Senate Standing Committee, such as the Teaching, Advising, and Assessment Committee. Senator Maier-Sperdelozzi inquired about the assessment of continuing programs; President Cardany reminded the FSEC that LOOC does not review continuing programs. Senator Rice agreed that LOOC could be discontinued and the duties subsumed to another committee. President Cardany explained that the Academic Program Review (APR) Committee intersects with the duties of LOOC. The APR Committee does in depth reviews of programs on a five-year cycle. She asked the FSEC their opinions on having the APR Committee take on the oversight piece. Senator Maier-Sperdelozzi thought this was a good idea which ensures that the faculty senate stays involved in the process. President Cardany stated the next steps would be a meeting with VP Rice, Vice Provost Veeger, and Senator Barbour, and

then a conversation with Assistant Director Finan from the Student Learning, Outcomes Assessment, and Accreditation Office and the FSEC.

- c. Professor Cardany asked Vice President Rice to discuss his work on University Manual Appendix G. VP Rice spoke of the revised language he wrote for the preamble and the reorganization of the appendix to include three new sections. Section 1 would be the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Policy on Policies, Section 2 would be the University of Rhode Island Policy on Policies, and Section 3 would allow for searching URI policies with a link to the repository policy page created by Vice President Rider's office. President Cardany thanked VP Rice for taking the time to develop this proposal, she will contact Vice President Rider and invite their suggestions, and work with them on the wording for the preamble on the policy website. President Cardany will bring this back to the FSEC before forwarding it to the Constitution, By-Laws, and University Manual (CBUM) Committee. Vice President Rice made a motion to take action; the motion was seconded and approved.
- d. President Cardany presented four versions of draft diplomas which listed majors as well as degrees. The FSEC discussed the different fonts and font sizes that were presented. After discussion the FSEC made a suggestion that only the student's name and degree should be in the existing Bliss font; the major should be in the same font and size as the other text on the diploma. A motion was made, seconded and approved; President Cardany will forward the information to Vice Provost Libutti.
- e. President Cardany informed the FSEC that the Referenda on gender neutral language in the University Manual, By-Laws, and Constitution had some minor revisions made and would be going out early the week of September 13th.

6. New Business

President Cardany called for any new business. The FSEC inquired about the agenda items for the meeting with University President Parlange on Tuesday, September 14, 2021. After discussion, President Cardany said the agenda would be forwarded to President Parlange.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.