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## FSEC Minutes November 5, 2021

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)**

**Meeting #25, November 5, 2021**

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. via zoom link**

**MINUTES**

1. President Cardany called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Vice President Rice, Senators Maier-Sperdelozzi, Meyerson, Nassersharif, Welters, and Coordinator Bourbonnais were present.

President Cardany welcomed incoming Coordinator Bourbonnais expressing how excited the Executive Committee is to have her join the Faculty Senate Office. President Cardany initiated introductions of Coordinator Bourbonnais and the FSEC.

2. Old Business

- a. none

3. Announcements

- a. COVID-19 Advisory Group

- i. President Cardany discussed the COVID mandate from the federal government requiring organizations receiving federal money to have all employees fully vaccinated or exempted for medical or religious reasons. The mandate resulted in all URI employees, including classified and student workers, needing to provide proof of COVID vaccination unless exemptions have been approved.

- ii. As cases testing positive for the flu are increasing and exceeding the number of COVID cases, President Cardany encouraged the FSEC to advocate for getting flu shots to colleagues and students.

- b. President Cardany announced that another meeting on policies and University Manual Appendix G was held and progress was being made. President Cardany and Vice President Rice were able to demonstrate to Assistant VP Larsen and Assistant to the VP Moos that the University Manual was not strictly a faculty senate document but a university-wide manual. The topics of ownership of policies and University Manual Appendix G preamble continued.

- c. President Cardany relayed that she had attended the Wednesday, November 3rd meeting of the Student Senate. She invited the Student Senate to provide a name for an undergraduate representative on the Academic Calendar Committee. She also invited Student Senate President Taiwo to read the Land Acknowledgement statement at the December Faculty Senate meeting.

President Cardany also spoke of the commitment of the Faculty Senate to attend a Student Senate meeting at least once a month. The Student Senate informed President Cardany that they had passed legislation to pursue a better working relationship with the Faculty Senate. President Cardany suggested that if the Student Senate would like having a member of the FSEC to attend as standard practice, they may want to consider creating a Faculty Senate ex-officio position.

#### 4. Approval of minutes

- a. The revised minutes of FSEC meeting #23, October 22, 2021 were approved, with one abstention.
- b. The minutes of FSEC meeting #24, October 29, 2021 were approved as revised.

#### 5. Discussion Items

- a. President Cardany attended a meeting with University President Parlange, Interim Provost Beauvais, Senior Enrollment Directors Humphrey and Saccucci to discuss the option of having the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off; The University Manual chapter 8, section 8.70.14 requires that changes to the calendar must be done 18 months prior to the beginning of a semester, except in the case of an emergency. The outcome of the meeting was a suggestion of a joint message to faculty suggesting a different kind of workday. FSEC discussion ensued including: a) the type of emergency that would allow for changing the current calendar, b) whether the intent of having the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off was to become yearly, and c) if the day off would apply to staff as well as faculty and students. Vice President Rice offered a motion for faculty to consider classes on Wednesday, November 24, 2021, due to these extraordinary times, as a different type of flexible workday, such as a catch-up day. After discussion, the motion was approved.
- b. President Cardany initiated discussion on three policies that require Faculty Senate review. The FSEC discussed the Policy on Naming Physical Spaces on Campus and had some concerns of overlap of charges with the Facilities Committee and the Honorary Degree Committee. President Cardany will take the concerns to the Stakeholders and Administrative Policy Committee (APC).

The FSEC discussed the Policy on the Use of University-Owned and Rented Vehicles. A suggestion was made to recommend a formalized driving training rather than increasing the age of drivers to 21 years, as currently some drivers are under the age of 21. Additional questions arose on who has the responsibility to complete the check of tire pressure and the condition of tires prior to vehicles

being used. Senator Maier-Sperdelozzi recommended that this policy be aligned with the field trip and travel policies.

President Cardany remarked that the Policy on Student-Athlete Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) does not seem to have a high interaction with faculty. The FSEC recommended the policy be carefully proofread.

- c. President Cardany opened discussion on the proposal for faculty senators to report out to colleges. The FSEC debated if a more general and less structured proposal would be more effective than a specific and structured model. A recommendation was made to encourage deans to invite their senators to report to the college on important and college applicable items. Alternative suggestions to having a formal policy, included having the Faculty Senate website house listings of new and important topics and the Council of Deans identifying and inviting a senator to make a report to their college faculty meeting.
- d. President Cardany relayed that she got back to General Education Director DiCioccio reporting that the FSEC had no suggestions on her General Education Assessment report but would like an update on the general education program as a whole. President Cardany reported that the General Education Committee is continuing to work closely with Director Dicioccio.
- e. The FSEC asked President Cardany on the status of the Academic Freedom/Social Justice Resolution. President Cardany explained that discussion is ongoing and revisions to the resolution are expected.
- f. President Cardany requested recommendations the FSEC provide names of faculty senators who may be interested in serving on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. Senator Welters suggested a name but will verify the individual is interested before submitting the name.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.