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MINUTES
Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)
December 17, 2021
1:00PM - 2:30PM via ZOOM

1. Call to order - President Cardany called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Vice President Rice, Senators Maier-Sperdelozzi, Nassersharif, and Welters were in attendance.
2. Old Business
 - a. Continued discussion of 2027 calendar - Academic calendar for 2027 - 28 continues to be a work in progress. By working with Enrollment Services, some options for schedules that avoid classes on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and that avoid Saturday exams seem to exist. An important goal is to try to equalize, to the extent possible, the number of instruction hours for M - W - F classes and T - Th classes. There was some discussion of the necessity of Advising Day but it was ultimately agreed that skipping that day and starting classes on the Tuesday after Labor Day rather than the Wednesday could cause problems for off-campus students who likely use that day as a move-in day. Following considerable debate, it was decided that a recommendation would be passed along to the Academic Calendar Committee for further assessment. Action on a proposed calendar is expected at the January Senate meeting. The recommended option would involve reducing reading days to 1 rather than 2, starting classes on Wednesday 9/8/27, and the final day of semester classes would follow the Tuesday schedule. This option would not include classes on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. It was agreed that some intervening years leading up to 2027 still need to be assessed for flexibility on the “Wednesday question” and President Cardany agreed to ask the ACC to bring forward a formal recommendation on the three unresolved academic years for action during spring semester.

3. Announcements

- a. Student Senate call for triple-bed housing - This was discussed at the 12/9/21 Faculty Senate meeting and it was confirmed that the Division of Student Affairs would be responsible for addressing this issue with the student body via the student senate.
- b. Spring SENATE meetings (in-person or remote) - At this time, the group is still hopeful that a return to face to face meetings might occur in February but the Omicron variant is being watched closely and transmission rates, booster rates and other variables will play a role in the decision making.
- c. Update - Appoint Nominating Committee - The University Manual stipulates a nominating committee shall consist of 3 Senators who will put two candidates forward for Vice President/President Elect of the Faculty Senate. Staff had some difficulty getting people to agree to serve in this role but finally has three qualified candidates who are willing and able. The Committee needs to be formally constituted at the January meeting so its official duties can begin.

4. Approval of minutes (5 minutes)

- a. FSEC Minutes 12/3/21 meeting: Unanimously approved with minor edits.
- b. FSEC Minutes 12/10/21 Minutes: Unanimously approved with minor edits.
- c. Faculty Senate 12/9/21 Minutes: Unanimously approved with suggestions as discussed - for transmittal of relevant sections to President Parlange for review.

5. Discussion Items

- a. Spring FSEC weekly meeting scheduling: Spring semester FSEC meetings will be held from 3:45 to 5:15 PM on Tuesdays. The next regular meeting will be on January 18, 2022.
- b. Finalize language for FS-President & FS link to URI Leadership Page - draft language for inclusion on the webpage was reviewed. On a motion by Vice President Rice, seconded by Senator Nassersharif and unanimously approved, President Cardany was authorized to transmit the draft (with links to Faculty Senate pages as discussed) to President Parlange's office

and the Communications team with a request that the Leadership page be updated to include it.

- c. NECHE draft report: Vice President Rice asked the group to review language he has prepared pertaining to “Standard 3, University Governance.” He would appreciate comments on the draft prior to January 7. Other departments/personnel mentioned in the draft also have an opportunity to review and comment. The goal is to address all comments and produce a new draft for transmittal by the time the FSEC next meets on 1/18/22.
- d. Juneteenth draft - Senator Meyerson is the point person on this initiative and given her absence, the matter was continued to the January 18 meeting.
- e. New Electronic Forms for Grade Change - The CIO has purchased a new platform for electronic forms and Enrollment Services would like to migrate the grade change form to the digital system right away. The University Manual in Chapter 8, Academic Regulations, seems to require a “written request” for a grade change. The FSEC agreed that the purpose and intent of this rule is certainly met by the electronic system and there were no objections to the rollout of the electronic forms as requested. As a caveat, it was noted that many electronic forms in use by the University are not user-friendly, especially where digital signatures are concerned, and it was hoped that the new platform selected by the CIO would be a big improvement.
- f. SAT/ACT Suspension for Admission - President Cardany offered a “heads up” that Dean Libutti is expected to approach the Faculty Senate next semester about extending the suspension of the SAT/ACT requirement. It was noted that this seems to be a very popular trend. However, it was also noted that certain departments and programs will be more impacted by such a decision than others. It can be problematic for disciplines like

engineering where program ranks and recruitment of quality students can be harmed by a lack of standardized test data. The University needs a reliable way to compare its students and also to compare itself to peer institutions. It was agreed that this could and should be a robust debate when and if a proposal is brought before the Senate or a special Admissions Advisory Committee.

- g. BOT Faculty Representative - As the President's office prepares to name a Faculty Representative nominee in the next couple of months, the FSEC has become aware that there is very little guidance in the University Manual or elsewhere about the specific role of this representative and there is equally little information about the selection process. The group agreed that when the FSEC meets with the President next semester, this should probably be part of the conversation so that clear and consistent guidance can be developed.
- 6. Call for New Business - none
 - 7. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 2:36 PM.