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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

January 18, 2022

3:45PM - 5:15PM via ZOOM

Minutes

1. Call to order - President Cardany called the meeting to order at 3:48 p.m. Vice President Rice, Senators Maier-Speredelozzi, Nassersharif, Meyerson and Welters were in attendance.
2. Guests: Senator Marilyn Barbour, CBUM Chair, was introduced. The next Senate meeting agenda will include a very detailed update regarding the activities of the Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee and Chair Barbour was asked to offer a preview and also solicit FSEC input on some open questions.
3. Old Business
 - a. Juneteenth - Senator Meyerson provided an update on progress on this initiative since the last meeting. Advice from the University's Government Relations office indicated that while it was important to advocate for State legislative change very early in the cycle, submitting the Resolution and supporting documents could wait a little longer. This would give students time to get back to campus and over the next week or two, additional groups could sign on, thereby bolstering the proposal. President Cardany offered to enlist Kathy Collins' office on the Faculty Senate's behalf, to reach out to student leaders who might lend support. It was noted that some academic units have passed the Juneteenth proposal around, allowing individual faculty members to sign on. It was also agreed that the original document could be amended slightly to allow for signatures from all six FSEC members rather than just the President, Vice President and project leader.
4. Approval of minutes
 - a. FSEC Minutes: The 12/17/21 minutes were approved by consensus.
5. Action Items
 - a. Faculty Senate January Agenda approval
 - i. CBUM Information Items (Marilyn Barbour, Chair) - Chair Barbour gave an overview of the report she expects to make at the 1/27/22

FS meeting. She explained the report addresses necessary editorial changes to the University Manual and its Appendices and they currently fall into three categories: 1) The URI Board of Trustees is now the governing body for the University. All remaining inaccurate references to the 'Board of Education', 'Office of Higher Education', 'Council on Postsecondary Education' and 'Board of Governors' are removed and replaced with "URI Board of Trustees." 2) Internal consistency within the University Manual and reconciliation with the Student Handbook requires changes to the outdated terms "Judicial Board," "judicial sanctions," and like terms to "Conduct Board" and "conduct sanctions," etc. 3) Sabbatical leave language reconciliation with the AAUP CBA. (See below)

- ii. Sabbatical Policy Reconciliation: Language in Section 7.61.20 of the University Manual differs from the Provost's policy and the AAUP collective bargaining agreement (Section XXI.C.2). The request for language reconciliation came from the AAUP Executive Director. There was consensus that the request should be honored but the issue has broader implications. While it is widely understood by faculty that AAUP provisions as well as BOT policies supersede the University Manual, there should be a good faith effort to keep the language consistent to the extent possible using procedures already established. While the FSEC agreed this specific change should be made now, there was acknowledgment that similar problems likely occur in other parts of the Manual and an effort should be made to identify them all and bring them into concert. It was suggested that, as the CBUM tackles this issue more comprehensively going forward, they should consider making the language generally more vague - for example, by simply referencing the AAUP document or

other relevant policies - for ease of long-term maintenance of the Manual.

- iii. Appendix G - University Policies/Other. The FSEC has been looking at Appendix G for quite some time and there is agreement that the Manual, since its transition to an on-line resource, is not a great tool for housing all up to date policies. Understanding the various policy types is important and maintaining searchable and transparent portals that are linked with one another to provide effective access to all policies seems to be of paramount importance. Such an approach would also alleviate the long-term administrative burden of maintaining this appendix as it streamlines the publication of new policies. A new version of Appendix G would include definitions of all policy types (BOT policies versus administrative policies, as an example) and would address the policy owners and the process for making and adopting the various policy types. While this change is a top priority, it was agreed that this is not yet ready to proceed as legislation. As a precursor to this bill, it would be prudent to make other necessary changes, specifically defining the Administrative Policy Committee within the Manual before referencing it.

CBUM Chair Barbour briefly addressed other potential Manual changes as a preview to future reports. Items the Committee would like to turn its attention to include but aren't limited to: Appendix A; the definition of Residency in Chapter 8; and the description of the Faculty Senate in Chapter 4. She would welcome the FSEC's thoughts on these and other sections and emphasized that as the FSEC conducts its Spring semester meetings with the University President and the Provost/Vice-Provost, working through these manual updates with them should be a priority. Of particular

note, any joint meeting with the University President in the near future should address Chapter 5 of the UM pertaining to Presidential Committees and Chapter 2, "The Administration," as it seems some position titles and descriptions have changed with the arrival of the new President. Updates would thus be in order.

Wrapping up her presentation, Chair Barbour noted the CBUM would like to mandate an administrative review of the University Manual every year to identify priority revisions and updates. FSEC members agreed this would be effective and suggested that a proposal be drafted to make this a requirement.

- iv. Consider moving standing committee reports that require Senate Action earlier in the agenda. Noting that the curricular work of the Faculty Senate, in particular, is central to its effectiveness, President Cardany suggested that those reports be moved up on the agenda template to ensure that those decisions are made in a timely fashion and are not at risk of failing to advance due to meeting time constraints. Recalling the example of last month's meeting, this idea received unanimous support. On a motion by Senator Rice, seconded by Senator Welters, FSEC agreed to this change on future agendas.
- v. COVID-compliance - "Ten-minute Tip" - Kathy Collins from Student Affairs has offered to spend a few minutes during the next Senate meeting to offer some guidance on dealing with student compliance issues related to the University's COVID policies. There was consensus this would be very beneficial. Motion by Senator Sperdelozzi, second by Vice President Rice, to amend the 1/27/22 Faculty Senate agenda to include these compliance tips at the end. Motion unanimously supported.

6. Discussion Items

- a. Division of Research - Phase 1 of Assessment - Following up on Vice President of Research Snyder's presentation at the last Senate meeting, some initial information on assessing sponsored research was shared with the group. The Division of Research and Economic Development is looking for some feedback on this preliminary report. FSEC members were asked to review the summary provided and comment back to staff regarding this first phase of assessment. Responses will be aggregated as "FSEC comments" and transmitted back to the Vice President's office.
 - b. Sexual Misconduct BOT Policy review - A new administrative policy has been drafted and is set to go before the Board of Trustees at their next meeting. Input on the policy was solicited but there were no significant comments.
 - c. NECHE Report - Vice President Rice asked that FSEC members comment on the draft that was provided. Specifically, Section 3 regarding University Governance has been amended to address important structural changes over the last five years. Initial reactions were favorable. Members agreed to leave comments in the draft document as requested or communicate with VP Rice directly.
 - d. Meeting dates for AY 22-23 - Staff presented a draft calendar of Senate meetings for next academic year. The proposed dates closely follow the current meeting calendar and have been vetted for holidays, breaks, and religious observances. A conflict occurs in April and there was a discussion about reverting to past calendar models where two meetings were not scheduled in April and instead, there would be a single April meeting (avoiding Passover) and also a single May meeting. Meeting early in May is not ideal given the final exam schedule but it can be done. Members were asked to consider the proposal and comment back to staff. This item will appear on a future agenda for action.
7. Call for New Business - none.
 7. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.