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FSEC Minutes January 25, 2022

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

January 25, 2022

3:45PM - 5:15PM via ZOOM

Draft 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. Announcements
 - a. Ombuds' Report and Recommendations: The Ombuds will offer a report on recent activities at the regular 2/15/22 FSEC meeting.
 - b. Provost Search Committee: President Cardany has accepted an appointment to this search committee but no meetings have been held yet.
 - c. Honorary Degrees BOT action: The action taken by the BOT last week related to honorary degree revocation was noted. It was agreed the Committee had done a thorough and conscientious job in providing a fact-based framework for the decision. There was speculation about potential consequences for the University which remain to be seen.
3. Approval of minutes
 - a. FSEC Minutes 2022_01_18: On a motion by VP Rice, seconded by Senator Nassersharsharif and unanimously supported, the minutes were approved with minor edits.
4. Old Business
 - a. NECHE Report - call for final edits: VP Rice thanked those FSEC members who had commented on/edited his draft and asked if there were any final thoughts on changes or additions. The members agreed unanimously that the draft is very thoughtfully composed. There was consensus that the draft should be advanced to the Vice Provost's office in its current form.
5. Action Items
 - a. APC Informational Report - Both the Policy on Policies and Appendix G refer to an Administrative Policy Committee that is neither defined nor described in the University Manual. There is consensus that this issue should be addressed before those documents are formally revised. The Vice President for Administration's office has drafted something to address

this shortcoming that will likely be on the February FS agenda as an informational report.

- b. Policy on Policies and Appendix G
 - i. Research Policies - Building on the above discussion, it was noted that while some policies related to Research might be purely administrative, others have an academic component that would require them to be treated as “hybrids,” necessitating both Faculty Senate and Presidential action. There was a general concern that the reach of current administrative policy work is creeping into areas that clearly call for Faculty Senate purview. While having an administrative policies website repository is a great tool, it should not include policies that actually belong within the University Manual - or similarly, within the Student Handbook. Links to some such policy documents in full might be more appropriate. Having an FSEC member on the APC is an asset to protect the purview of the Faculty Senate, but on-going scrutiny seems to be called for.
 - ii. Including full text of policies - It was agreed that there could be legal liabilities associated with trying to maintain up-to-date policy language in multiple places (the Manual *and* the website repository). This is an administrative burden and if there were ever a scenario where the two locations did not comport, it would definitely cause problems. Brief descriptions of things like Board of Trustees policies with hyperlinks to the full texts seems like a more effective approach. Emphasis should be placed on making sure every policy has the policy owner(s) and approval process made clear. Senate President Cardany and VP Rice will begin drafting some brief descriptions for the FSEC to review.
- c. Meeting dates for AY 22-23 - proposed dates were presented and it was agreed that the Senate should go back to having a meeting in April and another in early May rather than doubling up in April. The schedule needs to be revised to include an early September “training” session. A new draft will be presented at the next meeting.

6. Discussion Items

- a. Division of Research - Phase 1 of assessment: The VP of Research and Economic Development asked for the FSEC’s reaction to an assessment report. A synopsis was provided in advance and some members had already provided comments. There was general disappointment that there

was no real faculty or staff engagement in this phase and the report leaves the audience with no sense of what the ORED actually does for the average faculty member who is trying to conduct research. Some suggestions included inviting the VP of Research to a future meeting to explain what future assessment phases will look like which might allay fears that the faculty are left out of the process. Using the FS Research Committee was another idea. The Committee could be asked to prepare a more detailed reaction to the report and work through any identified shortcomings with the VP's office. It was also noted that URI has a Research Foundation which does not appear to include a Faculty member on its Board. This should be remedied, possibly by having the Faculty representative to the BOT automatically play that role. President Cardany stated she would invite the VP of Research and Economic Development to an upcoming meeting to work through some of these concerns.

- b. CMS Colleges and Departments - Reconcile Groups to Legislation - President Cardany noted the Kuali implementation has highlighted discrepancies in eCampus and inconsistencies comparing the course catalog with enrollment services data. Calls for legislation to reconcile some identified problems will follow.
- c. Special Summer Curriculum Committee Meeting - President Cardany noted that last year there were special curriculum workshops over the Summer and they seemed to work well in terms of alleviating any bottleneck of proposals in the Fall. She proposed that there be two, 2-hour meetings scheduled during Summer, 2022 for the same purpose. The group could consist of both out-going and in-coming Committee members. Money was budgeted for this purpose. The current status of this summer budget, however, was unknown and it was agreed this should be better understood before any meetings are set. The FS Coordinator will get more information on stipend budgets, both yearly and summer, and the FS Specialist will be asked to opine on the summer workshops as there may be special conditions which should be imposed to ensure the workload is productive and manageable.

7. Call for New Business - None

8. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn by VP Rice, seconded by Senator Nassersharif and unanimously supported at 5:15 PM.