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FSEC Minutes April 5, 2022

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

Meeting #34, April 5, 2022

3:45PM - 5:15PM

Minutes

In person - Pastore Conference Room RM224

1. Call to order - President Cardany called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m. Vice President Rice, Senators Maier-Sperdelozzi, Nassersharif, Meyerson and Welters were in attendance.
2. Announcements
 - a. Update recommendations from Academic Calendar Committee - The Committee has been asked to look at the inclement weather policies and assess impacts on the calendar. They are not yet ready to make any recommendations.
 - b. Update recommendations from Teaching, Advising and Assessment Committee - The Committee has been discussing the future of the Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee and may have recommendations to consider in time for the next FS meeting.
 - c. Quali Catalog - The launch of the online curriculum management system has gone relatively smoothly. Producing the catalog from the CMS is the next priority. President Cardany noted when her term is up, project management and other responsibilities will revert to staff. It is hoped the catalog publishing deadline can still be met.
3. Approval of Minutes -
 - a. FSEC March 29, 2022 - Continued to 4/12/22 for approval.
 - b. Faculty Senate March 24, 2022 - Approved unanimously as presented.
4. Old Business
 - a. Changes to Chapter 5 & Chapter 9 of the University Manual were proposed to avoid conflict with Federal legislation regarding Title IX and with policies promulgated by the Board of Trustees. A motion was made

and seconded to recommend these changes as drafted to the Senate at the 4/14/22 meeting. Motion unanimously supported.

- b. UM Maintenance Schedule - As discussed previously, a revision to the University Manual to outline specific responsibilities and a timeline for review and updates seems to be in order. CBUM has commented on the plan and the FSEC discussed the details. A recommendation that such schedule not be addressed by the Manual but instead be for internal use as a guideline was considered. Ultimately the FSEC voted to advance the proposal following a friendly amendment to make the language more discretionary.

5. Discussion Items

- a. Nominations for Search Committee for Dean of College of Business - The FSEC has been invited to nominate a couple of members of the search committee. Several names have been suggested but the group noted the AAUP also typically provides a couple of members of such committees. FSEC members agreed they do not want to offer up duplicate faculty names and also would like a better understanding of the composition of the search committee. Staff and President Cardany agreed to reach out to the AAUP and the Provost to collect more information so the group can circle back to this topic at the next meeting.
- b. URI Faculty Webpages - no progress since last meeting.
- c. Land Acknowledgement - There was general consensus that the approved Land Acknowledgment statement should be part of the University Manual - either as part of the Preamble or at the start of Chapter 1. VP Rice agreed to draft appropriate bill language for adoption, however, it was unclear whether or not the BOT should be involved in that process. It was agreed such a bill should be held until after the next BOT meeting (April 21) to give that body time to deliberate and/or act.

- d. Administrative Policies - FSEC members were invited to comment on the following draft policies:
- i. Policy on Inclement Weather and Other Emergencies - As this policy affects the entire community, President Cardany noted that broad input from all faculty and the AAUP is appropriate. Several concerns about the draft were noted, including the fact that it seems to treat all faculty and staff the same but not everyone in all roles is equally equipped to work remotely and/or to pivot to that scenario with very little notice. Also, while flexibility in teaching modalities might be desirable, where implications for pedagogy can be anticipated, decision-making cannot be purely administrative and must involve the faculty. It also fails to address how and when make-up days are to be used in the event of cancellations. Other comments and concerns should be forwarded to President Cardany and VP Rice so they can be addressed in an upcoming meeting with the Provost.
 - ii. Policy on Unmanned Aircraft Systems - Several divisions of the University use drones in some official capacity. Faculty members potentially affected by the draft policy are invited to weigh in and FSEC members agreed to pass along to President Cardany any suggestions for potential reviewers with whom it should be shared.
 - iii. Policy on Reporting Employee Misconduct at the University - This draft policy is expected to be on the Board of Trustees April agenda for approval and all faculty are encouraged to read it carefully and comment to the APC.
- e. Graduate Faculty Status - Following a dialogue with Dean DeBoeuf last week, amendments to Section 4.70.10 of the University Manual have been proposed addressing graduate faculty status. The revisions represent a companion piece to changes in the Graduate School Manual as the two documents should comport.

A motion was made and seconded to bring the proposal forward as a recommendation from FSEC. Unanimously supported.

6. Action Items

- a. Approval of FS Agenda - the agenda for the 4/14/22 meeting was reviewed and approved by consensus with the caveat that a couple of items may change. Depending on supporting materials received, staff may propose additions or deletions where appropriate and request approval via email. The agenda includes a meeting of the General Faculty, docket to be posted separately. The group agreed the Land Acknowledgement statement should be read before the meeting and a couple of names were suggested of people who might play this role.

7. Call for New Business - None

8. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.