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## FSEC Minutes April 12, 2022

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)**

**Meeting #35, April 12, 2022**

**3:45PM - 5:15PM**

**Minutes**

**Pastore Conference Room RM224**

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. Update recommendations from Academic Calendar Committee - the Committee will bring forward an Online Calendar for approval at the 4/28 Faculty Senate meeting.
  - b. Update recommendations from Teaching, Advising and Assessment Committee - The TAAC is expected to bring forward a recommendation about the role of the Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee on 4/28. The report is likely to call for the TAAC taking over the review of new program assessment plans from the LOOC. The TAAC may also have a review of the Academic Integrity policy ready at that time.
  - c. Kuali Catalog - President Cardany demonstrated the catalog function of the CMS. The implementation team is still trying to determine how best to deal with information in the catalog that is not directly curriculum-specific (enrollment services front-matter, admission and graduation requirements, student services sections, etc). The conversion to Kuali seems to have illuminated some short-comings of the annual catalog compilation process and concerns were expressed about long-term catalog maintenance. Once the Kuali implementation team wraps up, it is unclear who will provide expertise and technical assistance for various aspects of curriculum and catalog management. It was suggested that a conversation between the Provost (i.e. the office that committed funds for the roll-out of Kuali) and the VP of Marketing and Communications (traditionally

responsible for catalog publication) might shed some light on future roles and responsibilities.

- d. Senate Elections, FSEC nominations, Awards - College elections of new Senators are underway but a couple of colleges are lagging behind. It might be helpful for FSEC members to issue reminders. At the 4/28 FS meeting, the newly-elected Senators will be introduced and new Executive Committee members will be elected. The two annual awards will also be presented. The next FSEC agenda will include selecting the winners.
3. Approval of Minutes -
    - a. FSEC March 29, 2022 and April 5, 2022 meetings - Approved unanimously as presented.
  4. Old Business
    - a. Land Acknowledgement
      - i. Student Senate - VP Rice has volunteered to present the newly-approved statement at the next Student Senate meeting.
      - ii. Invite John Brown in future/Presentation - As the remaining FS meetings of the current academic year already have full agendas, it was agreed that President-elect Rice should hold some time in September to have a more ceremonial introduction of the new Statement. This will likely work out well as the Senate moves toward including it in the University Manual.
  5. Discussion Items
    - a. UCAS curriculum committee proposal - A proposal was shared that explained the role of UCAS within the university and highlighted current course offerings associated with UCAS. The proposal called for the creation of a UCAS-specific curriculum committee. There was a robust discussion of the proposal and it was agreed the next step should be to send the proposal for review by the joint General Education/Curriculum and Standards Committee. FSEC members still had a number of questions, however, and it was decided the proposal is not quite ready for such a referral. Of primary concern was the use of instructors within

the UCAS curriculum who lack university faculty appointments. It was agreed that the proposal could continue to be reviewed and refined over the summer so that perhaps by the fall semester, a new draft will be ready to advance.

- b. Preamble to UM regarding primacy as policy document - The University's Risk Management office has suggested that the UM's preamble should assert the primacy of that document for the purposes of academic policies only. FSEC members agreed, however, that given the relevant State statute (Section 16.32.10 of the Rhode Island General Laws), the faculty shall play a role in both the curriculum *and* the governance of the University. It is imperative that any newly-drafted preamble not dismiss any part of the faculty's statutory authority.
- c. Student Activities - It has been suggested at the APC level that the Student Handbook needs updating and the University Manual should be made to conform. It was further suggested that the Manual could perhaps be streamlined by migrating some student-related language to the Handbook. Faculty members disagree, noting that the faculty, through the Senate, is responsible for advancing the educational purposes of the University and promoting appropriate behavior. The student-activities-related sections of the Manual are thus essential and cannot be relocated. They equally should not be subject to revision by outside actors. Instead, any Student Handbook revisions should be made to comply with the Manual rather than the other way around.
- d. Research Assessment Phase Two- The Office of Sponsored Research has released information on Phase 2 of the assessment of University research initiatives. FSEC and other faculty members are advised to give it a careful read as there are a number of important take-aways contained in the report. Chief concerns include a lack of overall staff and other institutional support for research activities and questions about how overhead dollars are being spent. The report would seem to make the annual overhead budget report even more important. It is hoped that the Phase 2 report can be presented to the Faculty Senate at a future meeting just as the Phase 1 report was.

6. Call for New Business - none
7. Adjournment - the meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.