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FSEC Minutes June 13, 2022

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MINUTES
Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)
June 13, 2022 - 9:00 AM
In person - Pastore Conference Room RM224

1. Call to order: President Rice called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Senators Echevarria, Forrester, Gindy, Maier Speredelozzi, and Nassersharif were present. There was consensus agreement to re-order the lengthy agenda to ensure more urgent matters are addressed with any items not discussed being continued automatically to the next meeting agenda.
2. Announcements
 - a. Two Faculty Senate appointments have been made to the search committee for a new VP of Student Affairs; Sen. Lenore Martin (CMB) and Sen. Graham Forrester (NRS).
 - b. Fac. Sen. President Rice has been notified of potential RI State Jury Service at any point July 1-June 30, 2023 that may affect FS.
 - c. Fac. Sen. President Rice met on June 1 with Prof. Rachel DiCioccio and Elaine Finan of the Office of Assessment of Teaching & Learning concerning NECHE interim report and reporting of our General Education assessment framework.
 - d. Sen. Nancy Eaton of the Centers Review Subcommittee released favorable review reports from the following centers: a) Alan Shawn Feinstein Hunger Center; b) Coastal Institute (CI); c) Pacific Basin Capital Markets Research Center (PBCMRC); d) Coastal Resources Center (CRC); and the Water Resources Center (WRC).
Committee Reports are held on file.
 - e. There was a June 10 meeting with the Provost & Vice Provost. Topics discussed were: 1) need for the Calendar Committee to consider Graduation weekend going forward; 2) Ombuds Language in the Manual; 3) Administrative Review Procedures; and 4) Academic Program review.
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. FSEC minutes for May 19, 2022 were approved unanimously.

4. Old Business

- a. Preliminary discussion of Senate Committee and Joint Committee Staffing for 2022-23 and Committee Liaisons.

- i. Staff presented a Draft Committee Membership List noting that every effort was made to give Senators their top pick of committee assignments. This was possible in most but not all cases. All current Senators are assigned to a standing committee per the draft. It was noted that a couple of Colleges still owe the Senate a representative and any new additions will need to be added to a committee roster. The draft list was approved with the caveat that some AY 21-22 retirements need to be double-checked along with ex officio positions. Each FSEC member was assigned to at least one standing committee or subcommittee as a liaison and the importance of communication between the committees and Faculty Senate leadership was stressed by FS President Rice. Appointments to Joint Committees will need to be addressed at a later date.

- ii. Eligibility of Administrators to serve - tabled.

- b. Overview of Faculty Senate budget - tabled.

- c. Proposal by VP-Administration Office to modify Intellectual Property sections of the University Manual (10.40.10 et seq.) in light of the recently promulgated Board of Trustees IP Policy. IT policies under consideration by APC: The following policies were presented as having already gained approval by the APC, apparently without meaningful review or input by the University's *IT GOV* committee or the Faculty Senate's Technology Committee. Senator Forrester and others noted a number of potential problems for faculty members arising from the policies as promulgated. It was agreed that a number of bullet points should be assembled and passed along to the Committees to inform a formal review, and also passed along to the Faculty representative on the Board of Trustees. Policy amendments may be necessary.

- i. IT Acceptable Use Policy

- ii. IT Endpoint Protection Policy

iii. IT Service Protection Policy

- d. Arising concerns about FacSen Administrator Review - tabled.
 - e. Draft policy for Adverse Weather and associated email: FSEC members identified a number of issues with the policy as written, starting with the named "Policy Owner," and the fact that it was not drafted in partnership with the AAUP or with the participation of faculty or other classes of employees. There were also concerns with the timelines prescribed and the lack of inclusion of faculty in making determinations about class cancellations. President Rice noted that he and VP Nassersharif may be able to address some of these concerns directly with the President and Provost in their upcoming monthly meetings.
 - f. University Manual - Chapter 2 Revisions Presidential Information Report - Update: The group praised the revisions for generally updating Chapter 2 to address current hiring practices, titles of administrators, etc. There were concerns however, especially related to the standing of the Faculty Senate in the new organizational descriptions. The FS President and VP will add this to the list of things to be discussed with the University President in an upcoming meeting.
 - g. Policy on Webpages - Tabled.
 - h. General Education Committee Revisions - discussion of adding three ex officio members to the GEC, appointed by the Director of General Education in coordination with the Committee chair, to revise the rubrics. (From Audrey's report given on 5/19/22.) Tabled.
5. Discussion Items
- a. Commencement Schedule: Following up on comments made at the 4/19 meeting (minutes), item c.ii. on that agenda: "We should consider holding the college commencement ceremonies the day before the main commencement. Families can then plan to travel for two days instead of three days. For example, consider having the undergraduate commencement events on Saturday and moving the graduate commencement to Friday or Monday." The suggestion was discussed and FSEC members agreed that the Calendar Committee should work with the Commencement

Committee to address the “commencement weekend” schedule. Also on the subject of commencement, it was noted that during the Graduate School ceremony, the candidates were in the holding and queuing area at the Ryan Center for a very long time in very hot conditions and no water was available to them. Refrigerated beverages were available in the VIP seating areas, however, which struck observers as very inequitable. This issue should be addressed in advance of future events.

- b. Approval of Special Summer Curriculum Committee proposals by FSEC under authority granted by the Faculty Senate on April 28, 2022. The Special Summer Committee met on 6/8/22, Chaired by Evan Preisser, and recommended 3 courses, an undergraduate Certificate, and an Accelerated Bachelors to Masters track for approval. Unanimously approved by FSEC.
- c. Travel Policies - FSEC members had concerns about this Draft by the Controller’s office (under consideration by the APC). The draft was seen as constraining and for faculty and, coupled with the University’s unwieldy financial systems, likely to be significantly problematic in some cases. The draft was added to the list of issues that FS leadership will discuss with the Administration.
- d. Bookstore contemplation of acquiring “Inclusive Access” electronic textbooks. Meeting between Bookstore Manager Paul Whitney & Sen Pres. Rice (w/ attachments) - The attachments were briefly discussed and the FSEC was generally supportive of the “inclusive Access” approach.
- e. The APC has drafted a policy on reporting violations of laws, regulations, etc. for consideration by the Board of Trustees and the FSEC is asked to comment. The draft policy is essentially a “whistle-blower-act type policy” and FSEC members initially questioned the rationale behind the listed policy owner. Several other questions arose, like the implications for negotiated collective bargaining agreements and possible impacts on groups like graduate students who are treated like staff in some ways but are also bound by a Student Code of Conduct. The draft seemed fraught with unclear and potentially unworkable processes and was lacking in sensitivity with regard to potential complainants. The FSEC is hopeful the draft can be further refined.

- f. University Manual - Proposed Changes to Manual Preamble by General Counsel A. Boss (attachment): The Committee reviewed the draft Preamble revisions and agreed unanimously that the language represents an erosion of the principle of shared governance. There was considerable discussion about the genesis and intent of the proposal and also about the unfortunate lack of clarity in some of the language in the RI General Laws and the University Manual. It was ultimately agreed, however, that the proposal seems like a great opportunity to explain and promote the importance of shared governance with renewed energy. FS President Rice and VP Nassersharif will continue to stress to the Administration the value of taking time to build consensus around new policies to ensure the best possible work products.

6. Action Items

- a. University Manual language revision - Chapter 6, Rights and Responsibilities. The Committee discussed the best way to cite quotes from AAUP statements in Sections 6.11.11 - 6.11.15 of the Manual. President Rice showed possible solutions for clarifying the language and the group agreed on "Option 3" as the optimal draft with minor modifications. This recommendation will need support from CBUM and the Board of Trustees.
- b. Selection of two faculty members to serve on the IT Strategic Governance Committee (ITGov). (Per UMan section 5.87.11 -
 - i. "ITGov shall comprise members from each University division with one-third membership from full-time faculty, two students, and each ITGov Council Chair or their designee. Membership shall comprise the Chair of the Web Policy Council or their designee, Chair of the Faculty Senate Committee on Information Technology and Infrastructure; the Vice Provost for Enrollment Management or their designee, the Controller or their designee, a faculty member from the Research Computing Council, the Chair of the Data Governance Council; a representative from the Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, a faculty member representing the Joint Committee on Online and Distance Learning or the Joint Classroom Steering Committee; a Distributed IT Representative from IT Technical Standards Council, a representative from the ITS Leadership Team, a College Dean; One Representative each from the Divisions of Student Affairs, and Research and Economic Development, a faculty member from University Libraries, an at-large Faculty member with IT expertise appointed by the Faculty Senate, an undergraduate and a graduate student appointed by the

Student Senate and Graduate Student Association, respectively; and the Chief Information Security Officer of the University as the representative of the IT Security Council. (#October 21, 2021 Informational Report)” FSEC members agreed the faculty need strong advocates on the IT Committees. Staff was assigned to make sure the next Chair of the Infrastructure/Technology Committee knows the role includes *ITGov* involvement and to see if the immediate past Chair is willing to stay on *ITGov* as an at-large member. Staff was also asked to look at the balance of the *ITGov* committee membership to ensure it is up to date and inclusive of all prescribed roles.

- c. Program Review Committee backlog of reviews. Tabled.
 - d. Set FSEC Meeting dates for rest of summer - Given the number of matters requiring attention, FS President Rice suggested that 3 - 4 more summer meetings will likely be necessary. He will be polling members asap to determine availability.
7. Call for New Business - None.
8. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.