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FSEC Minutes August 2, 2022

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

August 2, 2022

(Rescheduled from July 27, 2022)

1:00 - 3:00 PM

MINUTES

Pastore Conference Room RM224

Remote Option: via ZOOM

1. Call to order - President Rice called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Senators Gindy, Maier Speredelozzi, Echevarria and Nassersharif were present.
2. Announcements
 - a. There was a meeting of the Committee to recommend percent distributions of research overhead funds. Preliminary discussion suggests little change from the prior year, with one notable exception pertaining to funding for the Coastal Institute.
 - b. There was a meeting of the Covid Advisory Group. Students are asked to stay home if they feel sick; faculty are asked to respect student judgment on whether they need to stay away from classes. Masks will be required in face-to-face classes and labs unless waived by the instructor. The Advisory Group hopes to make masks available to departments for student use where the requirement is not waived.
 - c. There are ongoing meetings for President Parlange's Formal Inauguration. Event will be in the afternoon of September 22. The ceremony will take place in Edwards Auditorium and will also be live-streamed.
 - d. Bill #22-23-1C has been held by the Provost's Office prior to Presidential signature. There were questions about numbers of required credits in the proposed Certificate Program as being relatively high if course prerequisites were counted. The numbers were equivalent to a track or a Minor and the proposal originators were asked to consider the options further.
 - e. Stewardship Council - Updates on hirings and on-going searches for key personnel were provided along with updates on the current year and ensuing

year budgets. As part of the budget update, buildings and facility upgrades were discussed, including a potential bond referendum for athletic facilities.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. FSEC minutes for July 11, 2022 were approved as drafted.

4. Old Business

- a. Status Update on Standing and Joint Committee Composition and Chairs - staff is having difficulty recruiting Chairs for a couple of Committees. FSEC members confirmed that they can serve as Chairs of the committees where they are the liaison if absolutely necessary.
- b. Arising concerns about Faculty Senate's Administrator Review Process. Concerns relate to the secret nature of the faculty's assessment of administrators. Under the current system, reviewers do not have access to past review results and this seems inconsistent with the goal of fostering continuous improvement. Reviewers should be able to discern something about performance-related progress being made over time. FSEC members understand the need to balance privacy and HR-considerations with the desire for transparency and accountability while also not over-burdening review committees with background materials. Following considerable debate, it was agreed that, in addition to the confidential detailed report that goes to the Provost, there should also be an executive summary that is archived as a quasi-public document that can be seen and used by future reviewers and shared with the administrator's constituent group. The brief summary would explain the overall process and the result of the review and highlight the major strengths and weaknesses identified. FS President Rice and VP Nassersharif will discuss this idea with the President and Provost in hopes that this process change can be implemented going forward.
- c. Policy on Webpages - There was substantial agreement that faculty's ability to promote their work at the University via its web pages should be seen as a fundamental faculty right. Faculty are currently frustrated, however, with their inability to control their webpages in the current system and there are negative

repercussions in terms of potential partnerships with other institutions or businesses, graduate student recruitment, and the university's overall standing and reputation. Committee members suggested solutions, including proposing revisions to the University Manual to include language about web pages being part of the faculty's governance prerogative as a core academic function. It was also suggested that the existing policy-making infrastructure could be used to enact better practices. It was noted that the current Director of Communications has agreed in concept that the webpage policy is outdated. The group agreed that the new VP of Communications should be invited to a future FSEC meeting to discuss potential policy improvements.

- d. General Education Committee Revisions - potential legislation for adding *ex officio* members to the GEC. Following some debate, it was agreed that while it is important to involve the Advancement of Teaching and Learning office and the Innovation in General Education office in the work of the FS GenEd Committee, especially where program proposals and potential changes in rubrics are concerned, the preference would not be to include those representatives as *ex officio* members. Their respective roles should be more akin to consultants or advisors to the Committee. There should be a codified relationship described in the Manual that would provide for annual or once per semester reports from those offices to the Committee to guarantee effective communication. Senator Maier Sperdelozzi volunteered to reach out to relevant personnel in the referenced offices before draft language is put forward.

5. Discussion Items

- a. University Manual - the FS President and VP had a recent meeting with members of the University's policy team and legal counsel. A 9-point synopsis from the General Counsel's perspective was provided after the meeting and its key take-aways were shared with the FSEC. The synopsis led FSEC members to question the extent to which all community members understand the legislative

process and various parties' responsibility for maintaining the University Manual. FSEC members considered ways to ensure that shared governance is valued at all levels of the organization. It was suggested that the Faculty's representative on the BOT play a prominent role in advocating for this system at the highest levels. Because this representative is not necessarily an FS member, inviting them - at least annually - to a Senate meeting for introduction and a quick exchange on shared values could be effective. In the meantime, FS President Rice will continue to remind members of the policy apparatus that all new policies should comport with the UM and where this is not the case, members of the administration, as *ex officio* members of the Faculty Senate, should feel free to propose relevant Manual revisions. Such legislation will follow prescribed processes for adoption, including committee assignment and stakeholder consultation. It will then proceed to the floor of the Senate, as required, where it may or may not be adopted.

- b. September 29, 2022 FS Agenda - Staff will continue to assemble items for the docket and with a draft to be available soon.
- c. Land Acknowledgment Statement - Draft legislation was reviewed with a goal of including it for action on the 9/29 agenda as a recommendation from FSEC. A motion was made and seconded to approve Section 1.10.10 of the draft as-is and to strike Draft Section 1.10.11, renumbering accordingly. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Policy Stakeholder Group Drafts for Review - the following policies have been recently addressed by the APC or are on pending agendas. Pending items were tabled.
 - i. Allocation and Utilization of Space - The Administration wants this policy on the September FS agenda as an informational report but FS President Rice has noted it could spark considerable debate as faculty and department chairs don't figure prominently in the decision-making. Physical space is addressed by the AAUP

contract and this fact may not have been considered in the subject draft. The union should have an opportunity to review prior to adoption.

ii. Export Control

iii. ITS Resources - FSEC members likened this issue to the Webpage Policy previously discussed in that it doesn't convey a complete understanding of how faculty members perform their myriad duties. The draft policy seems to stretch beyond making current work practices more secure, venturing into the realm of micro-managing the way that faculty members work. Further, if the policy were rolled out as-is, significant training would be required for compliance. FSEC members agreed unanimously that the CIO should be invited to the next meeting to answer questions about the policy.

iv. Research Misconduct

v. Security Camera Systems

vi. Travel

e. UCAS Curriculum Committee - Tabled.

6. Action Items

a. Program Review Committee backlog of reviews. Tabled.

7. Call for New Business - None

8. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.