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FSEC Minutes August 9, 2022

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

August 9, 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 Maier Speredelozzi, Echevarria and Nassersharif were present.
2. Announcements
 - a. There has been a meeting of the Covid Advisory Committee & recommendations from the committee, and they have been adopted as new protocols for the fall semester. Vaccinations are recommended for all & masks are required for classrooms & labs unless waived by the faculty member teaching the class.
3. Guest: Bethany Jenkins, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees. FS President Rice welcomed Dr. Jenkins, noting that the FSEC had concurred that touching base with the BOT's Faculty representative was important to ensure open, effective, and mutually-beneficial lines of communication about faculty perspectives, priorities, and concerns. FSEC members observed that the composition of the BOT includes members with strong corporate backgrounds and/or extensive experience outside of academia and members may not have experience with the University's system of shared governance and its legislative processes. It was also noted that the administration includes more attorneys than in the past and this seems to be resulting in a plethora of new policies. The Faculty, through the Senate, does not have its own legal counsel and relies heavily on its volunteer committees. Some of the policies promulgated do not appear to have taken the full scope of Faculty interests and concerns into consideration. Going forward, faculty representative Jenkins agreed her role includes advocating for draft policies to be vetted through the Faculty Senate, especially via relevant committees. In terms of other priorities for the coming year, Dr. Jenkins hopes to effectively advocate for increased research support for faculty, especially relating to technical assistance with grants and

contracts. Successful research projects (not just those prioritized by the office of the VP of Research) hold vast potential to raise the profile and reputation of the University. Currently, the processes are complicated and cumbersome enough to constitute a disincentive for faculty to pursue external funding for research projects. FSEC members agreed that process improvements are long overdue and that more expertise needs to be made available for faculty members involved in research across all colleges of the University. Wrapping up the discussion, it was noted that the University Provost attends the BOT meetings and should be an effective ally to the faculty representative in advocating for these priorities. The status of the search for a new Provost was briefly discussed and there was agreement that a more open selection process would be welcomed by all faculty.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. FSEC minutes for August 2, 2022: were approved unanimously with minor edits.

5. Old Business

- a. Policy on Webpages - Update - The new VP of Communications will be invited to a September FSEC meeting to field questions.
- b. Update on committee assignments - Finding Chairs for all committees has been challenging but a final list is nearly ready and will be posted on the FS webpage prior to the start of the 2022-2023 academic year.
- c. Update on General Education Committee Revisions - potential legislation for adding expertise to the GEC. Senator Maier Sperdelozzi will draft something for consideration at the next meeting.

6. Discussion Items

- a. September 29, 2022 FS Draft Agenda - The agenda was reviewed and edited. A key feature will be the introduction of the formal Land Acknowledgment statement which has been approved by the Narragansett Tribe. Tribal leadership will be invited to the meeting. Regarding administrative policies to be presented, relevant committees should receive them in advance of the 9/15 Orientation

meeting so they may conduct a review. The policy stewards should be advised the language may be subject to revision.

b. University Manual Maintenance -

i. A new Manual section has been proposed for Chapter 11, Section 10 of the Manual, "Procedures for Changing the Manual." New Section 11.10.17 would read, "Whenever a determination is made by the responsible party(ies) that changes to a chapter or section of the Manual are required outside the ordinary maintenance schedule established pursuant to Section 11.10.16 based on developments in law or policy, they should notify the Coordinator, Faculty Senate, who will add the chapter or section to the agenda for the next meeting of the Executive Committee. The Committee will authorize the Coordinator, Faculty Senate, to add a notation in the electronic copy of the Manual that such chapter or section is "Under Editorial Review." That notation will remain in place until the necessary changes are made through the procedures set out in this chapter. Notwithstanding anything in the Manual to the contrary, chapters or sections of the Manual that are indicated to be "Under Editorial Review" will not take precedence over other internal policy statements inconsistent or conflicting with those chapters or sections." It was agreed that the foregoing shall be revised to reflect that the Coordinator will only be authorized to notate the Editorial Review following a thorough assessment of the rationale. The current draft implies the notation is automatic, but this would not be the case. VP Nassersharif volunteered to revise the draft language for consideration at the next meeting. It was also agreed that the UM belongs to the entire University so it would be appropriate for this revision to be presented to the full Senate for approval.

ii. Section 11.10.16 of the Manual refers to a maintenance schedule which has been developed. For potential action. FSEC members were uncomfortable with the reference to policy "owners" and it was agreed the term shall be replaced with "primary steward." Staff will make the change and circulate the new schedule. It will then be placed on the 9/29/22 FS agenda with the above-mentioned Section 11.10.16 for approval.

c. UCAS Curriculum Committee - FSEC members debated various pros and cons of the proposal and ultimately decided that it deserves further consideration. A motion was made and unanimously supported to assign the TAAC, CASC and the

General Education committees to jointly assess and make a recommendation.

Ideally, this would be accomplished in time for the 9/29/22 FS meeting (10/20/22 by the latest).

7. Action Items

- a. Program Review Committee backlog of reviews. Tabled.

8. Call for New Business - None.

9. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.