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FSEC Minutes September 19, 2022

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

September 19, 2022

8:30 - 10:30 AM

MINUTES

Pastore Conference Room RM224 with remote option via ZOOM

1. Call to order - President Rice called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM. Senators Maier Speredelozzi, Echevarria, Forrester, Gindy and VP Nassersharif were present.
2. Announcements
 - a. The President's University Stewardship Council met Tuesday September 13. Topics discussed were: An update of COVID on campus; A request for \$70M in EDA funding of match funds for federal grants; updates to the Graduate Research Fellows Program (GRFP); The roll out of InfoEd research platform by the Division of Research & Economic Development; Opportunity for NOAA Center on Offshore Wind Research; and Overview of the FY24 Budget Request.
 - b. President Parlange Inauguration this Thursday September 22.
 - c. The Board of Trustees meets at the Higgins Welcome Center beginning 9am Friday September 23.
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. FSEC minutes for September 12, 2022 - the minutes were approved unanimously as amended.
4. Old Business
 - a. FS Agenda - Items and logistics for the first regular FS meeting of the academic year set for 9/29/22. The agenda was reviewed and approved with some additions. Highlights include action on the Land Acknowledgement statement, the President's Report on the strategic plan, an Athletics Annual Report by AD Bjorn, and a number of curricular matters. The agenda will also include links to all policies published on the repository webpage maintained by the APC to increase faculty awareness of them and encourage analysis of their content. Standing committees will be asked to look closely at specific policies relevant to their charges.

5. Discussion Items

- a. Policies concerns - Related to the administrative policies that will be addressed by the 9/29 FS agenda, there was concern that some of the policies may be inconsistent with other existing policies or with sections of the University Manual or collective bargaining agreements. It was suggested that the Provost's office as well as the AAUP could be partners in helping faculty ensure that new policies are thoroughly vetted for impacts and that their adoption follows consistent procedural protocols.
- b. Age-Friendly Presentation - representatives of the URI Age-friendly University Committee have offered to make a presentation regarding their initiatives and accomplishments. FSEC members agreed to docket them on a future FSEC agenda to be coordinated by staff.
- c. Curriculum and RI State Legislature - A bill has been passed related to the mandatory issuance of language credits in RI for a Seal of Biliteracy earned outside of the college or university system. Faculty members in Languages have concerns about the legislation and believe such a law could constitute a violation of other existing laws on the books which give the university the authority to control how it assigns academic credit. FS President Rice and VP Nassersharif will address concerns about the legislation in upcoming meetings with the President and Provost.
- d. APC Policies
 - i. Honorary Degrees
 - ii. Trademarks and Licensing

The above policies have been presented as drafts by the APC and are not yet adopted. Staff was asked to put them on the 9/29 FS meeting agenda with the other policies to give faculty the opportunity to review and comment on them.
- e. Take-aways from the 9/15 Orientation meeting - There were some communication problems with getting the word out about the Orientation. These

have now been solved and most new members were on hand. Staff has edited the Zoom video and posted it in the FS webpage so anyone who missed the meeting can take advantage of the training. Suggestions were made for future trainings and there was agreement that involving Senate Parliamentarian Krieger might be useful. It was noted that a 1-page primer on parliamentary procedure was useful in years past. Staff was encouraged to try to find it and make it available to Senators and Ex officio members again.

- f. Meeting locations going forward - FS meetings will be held in Edwards Auditorium in September through November and will resume back at the Hope Room of the Welcome Center starting in December.

6. Action Items

- a. Nominations - The Student Conduct Hearing Board (former University Judicial Board) needs additional faculty members.
- b. Nominations - Search Committee for Vice Provost of International Programs
Several names were suggested for each of these positions. Staff will reach out and determine who is willing and able to serve and forward those names to relevant parties.

7. Call for New Business - None

8. Adjournment - the meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.