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## FSEC Minutes October 17, 2022

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)**

**October 17, 2022**

**8:30 - 10:30 AM**

**MINUTES**

**In person - Pastore Conference Room RM224**

1. Call to order - President Rice called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM. VP Nassersharif and Senators Maier Speredelozzi, Echevarria, Forrester, and Gindy were present.
2. Guest: President Marc Parlange - 8:30 AM
  - a) Discussion of the Process for Filling Administrative Positions (per UM 2.14.10). It was noted that a new Vice President was recently announced and it did not appear the prescribed hiring process had been followed. President Parlange explained that a member of the community had been promoted to a newly created position that hadn't existed before. This seemed to warrant a different process than the one used for ordinary recruitment to fill vacant administrative positions. FSEC members asserted that faculty members expect the process described in the University Manual to be followed for all Deans and other relevant administrators going forward. If more flexibility is warranted (for example, the ability to act quickly when a loss of existing talent is threatened), the administration should craft appropriate Manual language for consideration.
  - b) Continued Discussion of Governance Issues & the Role of the Senate - President Parlange expressed some disappointment in the level of engagement at the Senate meetings. His expectation was that, as the Senate resumed in-person sessions, more representatives would actively participate in the discourse. But the first regular meeting of the academic year didn't bear that out. More debate on both curricular matters and other business had been anticipated as the President noted this had been the norm at other Universities where he has worked. FSEC members pointed out that the URI community values decorum and heated debates in meetings are atypical. There should not be an inference that the parties are apathetic as in many cases, it means they have built their consensus behind the scenes so that a united front can be presented publicly. It should also not be assumed that faculty will react strongly to negative fiscal or

budgetary news as such commentary does not typically reveal anything faculty haven't already discerned for themselves. In terms of curricular matters, prioritizing the profitability of specific programs or courses is a legitimate pursuit, but the Faculty Senate has no budget control. If a Dean has signed off on a proposal to advance it to the Senate, that body doesn't typically challenge the implicit commitment to fund it at the college level. This led to a discussion about the need to essentially re-structure the budget process University-wide. This will need to be part of a longer-range plan that will involve both faculty and staff and it will likely involve big changes in systems, including the way programs are created and students are admitted. President Parlange's vision calls for a more transparent and entrepreneurial approach. While this transformation may be desirable, there are a number of obstacles that administrators, faculty, and staff will need to overcome and these include change-averse personnel, complex, outdated and inefficient procedures, and state bureaucracy in general.

### 3. Announcements

- a. There was an October 4 meeting with Provost Beauvais and legal counsel about University Manual & University policy matters including Chapter 11.
- b. There was a meeting of the Administrative Policy Committee on Oct 11. Policies for discussion & approval were: Security Cameras Policy; Research Misconduct Policy; Trademarks and Licensing Policy; and Honorary Degrees Policy. FSEC members agreed there are serious issues with the policy promulgation process as undertaken by the APC. The CBUM recently discussed several suggestions for improving policy development which would include the ability to provide meaningful input early in the process, before any drafts are finalized. Having appropriate stakeholders involved is key but as it stands, it is difficult to tell whether or not the Committee utilizes *any* faculty or staff members with subject matter expertise. It is also frustrating to have no means of finding out when the APC is meeting, who will be involved, and what policies are under consideration. FSEC members suggested ways of getting the administration's attention with these concerns and they ranged from sending a letter to President Parlange or

requesting a meeting with the VP for Administration to placing a critical Resolution on the next Senate agenda calling for process improvements.

- c. There was a meeting on Oct 13 with Provost Beauvais and Vice Provost Veeger on topics that included Covid management as the pandemic winds down and further discussions on outcomes assessment as an important tool for self-improvement in teaching and learning (further discussion under item 5a).
  - d. President Parlange convened a meeting of the Strategic Plan steering committee on Oct 13. The Faculty Senate Survey of faculty reactions to the Strategic Plan was discussed and many suggestions are being considered for incorporation into the Draft. The meeting and discussion resulted in near finalization of the plan, and initial discussions of implementation plans began.
4. Approval of Minutes
- a. FSEC minutes for October 3, 2022 - The minutes were approved unanimously.
  - b. FS Minutes for September 29, 2022 - the minutes were approved unanimously with the condition that live links to all the APC policies be part of the record.
5. Old Business
- a. Continued Discussion - per Anne Veeger - Assessments/LearningOutcomes
    - i. Roles of Gen Ed, TAAC, LOOC & APRC
    - ii. Can LOOC & APRC be combined & re-charged?

There were concerns from some existing standing Committee members that if any dissolution, merger and/or re-structuring of the LOOC and APRC were to occur, the Gen Ed and TAAC would inherit their work-load. FS President Rice has provided some assurance that this will be avoided. The current challenge is to come up with a new structure that results in the work being done effectively by an appropriate joint committee. There are a limited number of people on campus who excel in this endeavor and they should be used in the most efficient way. While some faculty pursue assessment grudgingly as part of accreditation, there are people who value and enjoy it who should be utilized. The FSEC agreed on the goal of having a special committee charge drafted for approval at the November Senate meeting to work on solutions.

6. Action Items - Approval of the 10/20/22 FS Agenda - the agenda was reviewed and it was noted a couple of reports are still outstanding. Staff will post by end of day and add links and updates later if needed.
7. Discussion Items
  - a. Action planning for making Senate more effective
    - i. Possible modification of Senate committee memberships - it was noted that while Committees have the ability to bring in non-Senators where needed, this rarely happens. Several examples were cited and it was noted some committees have more success getting the outside help that they need than others. The example of needing experienced research faculty on the Research Committee was offered and it was agreed that this should be discussed with VP Snyder at his next visit.
  - b. Proctoring policy inquiry from Anne Veeger - Need to update 2013 policy and include it in UM. An old policy is still being used by at least one college but there is scant evidence that it is in effect. It was agreed the current policy should be officially repealed but the JCODL working with TAAC should probably work on an update for formal adoption.
  - c. PLA @ URI - Inquiry from John Rooney - Continued to 10/24 for further discussion. There was a time when regular reports were delivered to the senate on transfer credits and policies but this has not happened in some time. It is the kind of subject where broad input from faculty should likely be provided and considered.
  - d. Related to 5a above - Elaine Finan correspondence - tabled.
  - e. Advance planning - Fall FSEC agendas:
    - 10/24 meeting: Guest will be new VP of Communications and Marketing Matthew McDonald. Topics to include webpage policies, overall marketing of faculty accomplishments
    - There will be a meeting on 10/31.
    - Guest: CIO Kaugars 11/7 (8:45 - 9:30)

- Peter Snyder future agenda.
- Transition plan for Joanne Lawrence 's retirement

8. Call for New Business - None.

9. Adjournment - the meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.