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FSEC Minutes October 24, 2022

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University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "FSEC Minutes October 24, 2022" (2022). *Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas and Minutes*. Paper 343.

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

October 24, 2022

8:30 - 10:30 AM

MINUTES

Pastore Hall RM224 - remote option via ZOOM

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: VP of Communications and Marketing Matthew McDonald was welcomed and FSEC members noted their communications concerns fell into essentially two main areas. First, when a concerted effort was launched to unify the branding of the University, faculty lost a lot of control over their own online profiles and information. Across the colleges, there is little standardization in the way faculty members, their accomplishments, research interests and general CV information are portrayed to the public. Not every college has a web communications team and the ticket-based update system is extremely inefficient. Secondly, information about actual programs (both undergraduate and graduate) are subject to some of the same problems. Accurate content should be prioritized and a reliable system for pushing it in a timely fashion should be developed. Some faculty and departments have developed work-arounds where they maintain parallel private pages that are linked back to the University, but this poses its own management and logistical challenges. VP McDonald agreed that a more efficient interface to provide ease in updating webpages across the board should be provided. His preference would be to find an enterprise or system-wide fix that would serve all departments and colleges. While brand integrity is important, it seems clear some flexibility should be introduced. Perhaps there are training resources that would allow for some limited decentralization of the update function so that people can do some things themselves or at least within departments so that the unwieldy ticket system can be avoided. VP McDonald's goal is to build a "community of communicators" who can assist and support each other in pushing information. He would like to go back and consider these needs and investigate some solutions. There was some discussion of

using media students in the Harrington School as they could assist in routine matters while gaining valuable experience. It was also noted that some similar institutions seem to be ahead of URI in their use of video resources and VP McDonald plans to investigate those opportunities as well.

3. Announcements

- a. There was an October 18 meeting of the President's Stewardship Council (PSC). Items discussed were: URI Foundation fundraising successes, including a record-setting 'Day of Giving' and a Housing & Residential Life update, wherein it was noted that rental restrictions in Narragansett are increasing pressure on dormitories. The 'Finish What you Started' (FWS) campaign and importance of PLAs were discussed and FSEC members agreed that these two subjects should not be conflated. The FWS initiative may be a valid "business" opportunity that will allow expanded enrollment based on previously earned college credit, but any PLA expansion raises concerns and should be very thoughtfully considered with input from relevant departments. The PSC meeting also provided an Enrollment Report and an update by State & Federal Liaison Officers. Legislative liaison work is definitely on the rise and seems to be producing positive results.
- b. There was an October 19 meeting among President Parlange, VP Nassersharif & Pres. Rice. Major topics included a briefing on the procedures for evaluations of administrators and amendment of UM Section 10.90.16 - Evaluation of the President. The President agreed with the principle of transmitting the Presidential evaluation to the Board of Trustees after his review. The draft revision to UM Section 10.90.16 is thus hereby advanced to the CBUM for review with the goal of bringing the amendment to the Senate floor on 11/17. Other Administrator Evaluation process amendments may be on the horizon once the new Provost is seated. These would include providing a written Executive Summary to relevant constituencies as a sort of permanent record for longitudinal comparison purposes so that responsiveness and continuous improvement can be determined. Faculty note they are subject to such a process

and feel the same should be true for leadership positions. FS President Rice and VP Nassersharif will continue to advocate for faculty participation in the review of other administrative positions, including Vice Presidents, in particular.

Ultimately, this decision rests with the University President.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. FSEC minutes for October 17, 2022 - Tabled to 10/31/24.

5. Old Business

- a. Continued Discussion - per Anne Veeger - Assessments/LearningOutcomes
 - i. Roles of Gen Ed, TAC, LOOC & APRC and possible combining & re-charging of APRC and LOOC - As has been previously discussed, FSEC agreed it is appropriate that a special study committee be convened (from among GenEd and TAAC members) to make a formal recommendation about a combined joint committee to carry out the program assessment function.
- b. Continued discussion of Amendments to Manual Chapter 11 - A new Section 11.10.17 had been introduced at the 9/29 FS meeting but it was held for further study following receipt of some suggestions from the Provost's office. Senator Echevarria provided some background on the evolution of the section and presented draft language as it currently stands. Provost Beauvais was unavailable for the 10/20 FS meeting but this will be back on the 11/17 docket.

6. Action Items -

- a. Proposal for creation of a Curriculum Committee for UCAS from Interim Dean Christopher Hunter – Transmitted background materials were reviewed and there was some discomfort with expanding the ability of UCAS to create courses. It was noted that understanding whether or not the “curriculum committee proposal” is part of a larger effort to expand the role of UCAS on campus would be important, along with ensuring that appropriate subject matter experts (i.e existing faculty from relevant colleges) are represented on any curriculum committee. And since the colleges already have their own curriculum committees to create courses, the necessity of a new committee was called into

question. A motion was made and seconded and unanimously supported to invite Interim Dean Hunter to a future FSEC meeting to explain the rationale for the proposal, the vision for the future of UCAS and the nexus between the two. The motion was amended to include a subsequent invitation to Dean Libutti who might be able to add to a broader discussion of UCAS. He might also be positioned to augment the FSEC's understanding of PLA's (item 7d on this agenda).

7. Discussion Items

a. Debrief of October 20 Senate Meeting

i. Action planning for making the Senate more effective - It was agreed the 10/20 meeting was an improvement over the 9/29 meeting in terms of participation. There were more in-person attendees and the acoustics were improved. There was a discussion under New Business about preferences going forward and people vocalized a desire to keep the hybrid/Zoom option. Since the meeting, however, faculty members have reached out to express a desire to return to fully in-person meetings. As the entire campus has returned to in-person work, instruction and other activities, this seems like a legitimate requirement. The ZOOM option could be provided for viewing, but in order to be counted present and be eligible to vote, a Senator should be physically present in the room. While some Senators may have volunteered for this service under the premise that remote attendance was an option, it does not seem unreasonable to expect physical attendance at one meeting per month during the parameters of a regular work day. Some points in favor of this position include the fact that managing hybrid meetings is more difficult than managing purely remote meetings and FSEC members have been tapped to help monitor voting, chat activity and "raised hands" during meetings while staff focus on room management, screen display, and note-taking. In person meetings and the receptions that follow help to build back some sense of community on campus following the isolation of the pandemic. Smaller committees could still operate

remotely or via hybrid meeting. The President's policy, leadership and other committees all meet in person and as a co-equal partner in governance, the Senate should likely follow suit. There was a motion (seconded and approved) to continue this discussion at the 11/17 FS meeting to be sure all positions are heard.

- b. Proctoring policy inquiry from Anne Veeger - Need to update 2013 policy and/or include it in UM - There is an "Exam Proctoring Policy for Online Courses" that does not appear to have ever been incorporated into the UM. During the pandemic, protocols evolved and the policy now needs to be updated. FSEC members agreed there should be a rewrite that applies not only to on-line courses but to remote testing across the board. A motion was made, seconded and approved to refer the policy to the TAAC with a copy to the CBUM. The TAAC should study the policy and recommend comprehensive updates and the CBUM shall recommend appropriate Manual section(s) for incorporation.
 - c. PLA @ URI - Inquiry from John Rooney - FSEC will be inviting Dean Libutti to a future meeting and will hold this item until after that discussion.
 - d. Related to 5a above - Elaine Finan correspondence - tabled from 10/3 - The correspondence referenced one critical item which is that new programs cannot be created without an approved assessment plan. Since the LOOC/APRC issue is still under consideration and may be in flux for some time, there needs to be a mechanism to ensure program proposals can still advance. It was agreed that since these programs flow through the Provost's office via Anne Veeger, the Chair of the TAAC could probably play the approver role on the faculty side temporarily as was done last year.
 - e. Advance planning - Fall FSEC agendas:
 - Peter Snyder 10/31 - 9:00 AM; CIO Kaugars 11/7 8:45AM
8. Call for New Business - None
 9. Adjournment - the meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.