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## FSEC Minutes October 31, 2022

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)**

**October 31, 2022**

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

**MINUTES**

**Pastore Conference Room 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, and Gindy were present.

2. Guest: VP Research Peter Snyder - 9:00 AM

i. URIRF update and faculty member nominations for Board of Directors

ii. Distribution of Overhead Funds

iii. Potential for sister-university partnership with University of Tasmania

iv. Update on Plastics COLAB and planning for the next one

Dr. Snyder was welcomed and started the conversation with a staffing update on the Research Foundation. They are close to securing a full time Director and are also advertising for a Director of Intellectual Property. He added that there is one open seat for a faculty member on the Board and several names were discussed. He provided an overview of the Foundation noting that it houses programs like the Polaris MEP, 401 TechBridge and others. There was a discussion about how those programs seem to rely on industry executives and don't make use of faculty who might bring significant expertise to bear. Dr. Snyder noted he would talk to the new Executive Director about ways this issue might be addressed. It was also noted that Undergraduate Research is housed under the Provost's office so it seems the research mission of the University is really bifurcated with other research endeavors residing in VP Snyder's office. Potential new structures should be explored once a new Provost is seated so that research endeavors might be made more efficient.

There was a discussion on the use of overhead funds. VP Nassersharif explained that in years past, a detailed and informative report would be released but we seem to have gotten away from that. Quality data is needed to inform decision-making and research

operations cannot succeed without sufficient staff and support. Changes in the way overhead funds are used are probably called for going forward.

The Governor of Rhode Island and the Premier of Tasmania are pursuing Sister State status and URI is now pursuing an MOU with the University of Tasmania. The two universities share many similarities, interests and areas of expertise. The partnership is likely to have a positive impact on graduate enrollment and one of the first priorities will be the pursuit of a joint PhD program.

The Plastics COLAB has been a great success and the University is starting to think about the next opportunity to use the COLAB approach. The new chosen area will be Healthy Aging and the thrust areas are currently being discerned. The COLAB will have its own Director in the Research office and it is hoped that a global conference on the subject will be one result of the initiative.

### 3. Announcements

- a. Meeting with Elaine Finan & Continuing Learning Outcomes Discussion
  - i. Sen. Maier-Sperdelozzi has agreed to serve as interim LOOC chair in cooperation with the Office for Advancement of Teaching and Learning to keep assessment plans on track.
  - ii. Sen. Forrester also is assisting with GenEd elements. President Rice thanked the Executive Committee members who have stepped up to make sure someone is available to sign off on assessment plans.
- b. Covid-19 Management
  - i. An upcoming meeting is scheduled to talk about masking requirements going forward and also Travel Policies given the loosening of travel restrictions in line with State Department Alert levels.
- c. Update of University Strategic Plan – President Parlange has communicated that the Faculty Senate Strategic Plan Survey is resulting in some changes to the Strategic Plan.
- d. The formal inaugural of the University of Rhode Island Land Acknowledgement will launch on November 1 to begin National Native American Heritage Month

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

- a. FSEC minutes for October 17, 2022 and October 24, 2022. The minutes were approved unanimously on the condition that President Parlange's office approves the section capturing his visit on 10/17.
- b. FS minutes of October 20, 2022 - these minutes were tabled to the 11/7 meeting.

#### 5. Old Business

- a. Proposal for creation of a Curriculum Committee for UCAS from Interim Dean Christopher Hunter – attachment/background. Dean Hunter has been invited to a future meeting to answer questions about the request.

#### 6. Action Items

- a. Exam Proctoring Policy Review (Proctoring Policy) – Need for revision and incorporating (perhaps by reference) in the Manual. FSEC members agreed that multiple committees should likely work together to update this policy and it should be expanded to cover all remote exam proctoring and not be confined to online courses only since in-person classes sometimes have a need for this exam type as well. It would be most appropriate for the Joint Committee on Online and Distance Learning to re-work the policy but the Committee has not been fully comprised in a couple of years. The group has not been meeting due to insufficient membership. The Coordinator and FS President will try again to recruit members (see item 6b below). It was also agreed that both the TAAC and the CBUM should be involved. TAAC is officially charged with making recommendations about good teaching and assessment practices and so they should definitely play a role and the CBUM will need to decide how the new policy should be incorporated or referred to in the Manual.
- b. Joint Committee on Online & Distance Learning (Info) - staffing attempt redux: Several names were suggested. The Committee has some specific membership

requirements but the FSEC agreed it should not just be composed of faculty members who instruct through URI online. The current need to update the proctoring policy will be used to recruit members. FS President Rice will reach out to the nominees to see who is willing and able to serve.

## 7. Discussion Items

- a. Strategic Plan Implementation - role of Faculty Senate. Tabled until the faculty see proposed Performance Indicators and draft implementation plan details.
- b. URIRF and Distribution of Overhead Funds Manual Procedure - The FSEC settled on a nominee for faculty representative on the Research Foundation Board and it was agreed that this individual should prioritize improving the overhead distribution process to ensure funds are reinvested in research endeavors.
- c. Dean Libutti - future of UCAS - relationship of a Prior Learning Assessments inquiry to “Finish What You Started” (if any). The Committee agreed that following a meeting with Christopher Hunter next month, there should be a conversation with Dean Libutti about the foregoing.
- d. CBUM Matters (Sen. Echevarria)
  - i. Status of Chapter 11 amendments - the CBUM is meeting again on Nov. 9 and should be ready to bring Section 11.10.17 forward for action at the 11/17 FS meeting.
  - ii. Status of Chapter 2 - It was agreed the administrative report regarding a new Chapter 2 amounted to more than a Manual revision and would be seen as an actual organizational restructuring, a fact not addressed by the cover sheet. The inability to obtain a “strike-thru” version for review had made it difficult to immediately discern the extent of the proposed change. The CBUM is trying to work through the draft and noted they will need to find a new home for the Ombuds Section as it cannot simply be stricken. Concerns about the Chapter 2 revisions go well beyond that, however. FSEC members discussed concerns related to recent proposed revisions to Chapter 2, specifically the line of

succession for Presidential powers. It was agreed that FS leadership should communicate directly with the President about these concerns. It was further noted that the lack of a redlined draft had negatively impacted the review of this and other Manual revisions and this issue also requires resolution at a high level.

- e. Setting agenda for November 17 Senate Meeting
    - i. Meeting locations going forward and in-person vs. remote attendance –
      1. Tabled discussion - An agenda template was presented and it was agreed there will be presentations on enrollment, the budget and from the Office of Innovation in General Education. The discussion on meeting modalities (in-person versus hybrid) will continue under old business.
  - f. Advance planning - Fall FSEC agendas:
    - CIO Kaugars 11/7 8:45AM (discussion items to include server insufficiencies; “Procure-to-Pay” system rollout; Appropriate roles for IT GOV versus the Senate’s technology committee.)
    - Transition plan for Joanne Lawrence ’s retirement
    - Chris Hunter - UCAS curriculum committee discussion
8. Call for New Business - None.
  9. Adjournment - the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.