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## FSEC Minutes November 21, 2022

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)**

**November 21, 2022**

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

**MINUTES**

**In person - Pastore Conference Room RM224  
(remote option via ZOOM)**

1. Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by VP Nassersharif. Senators Echevarria and Forrester were on hand and FS President Rice arrived later.
  
2. Announcements
  - a. There was a November 18 meeting among President Parlange, FS President Rice and FS VP Nassersharif. Topics for discussion were: a) President Parlange's plans to restructure curriculum in order to reduce numbers of low-enrollment classes to allow for greater research & creative engagement by faculty. This objective has been previously referenced by the President but no specific plan of action has yet been articulated; b) Continuing discussions of UMAN Chapter 2 - FS President Rice and the University President have discussed concerns around Chapter 2 and have agreed it will not be brought forward for formal revision until the faculty's main concerns have been addressed. The President's Chief of Staff will be the FSEC's point of contact. c) A community announcement regarding completion of the new Provost search is imminent; d) post-COVID campus culture. The desire to rebuild community through pre-Covid-style in-person meetings and other interactions is apparently an issue campus-wide and not just for the Faculty Senate.
  - b. There will be a meeting of the Administrative Policy Council (APC) on November 22, under discussion and for consideration are two draft policies: a) the Draft Policy on COVID-19 and Campus Health and Safety, and b) the Draft Policy on Collection and Use of COVID-19 Related Health Screening and Safety Information. Review of the screening data collection policy was discussed at some length and

faculty members questioned whether it comports with Federal guidelines regarding human subjects. It was also not immediately clear whether the Institutional Review Board (IRB) had been consulted during development of the policy. The Board could provide guidance on relevant best practices and mandates regarding such data. FS VP Nassersharif will attend the next APC meeting and make these points. He will also address concerns previously stated about the Research Misconduct Policy. FSEC member Forrester has offered to meet with the APC on that subject and could also probably suggest additional stakeholders to help refine these policies.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. FSEC minutes of October 31, November 7, 2022 and November 14, 2022. The November 7 minutes were approved unanimously. The October 31 minutes were continued to the next meeting for action pending correction. The November 14 minutes were also continued.

4. For action - Administrator Evaluations:

- a. Committee Membership for Deans Riley and Bontempi (See UMAN 5.76.11) - Some of the individuals nominated to serve on these two committees declined to serve so finalizing membership is not yet possible. Several new names were suggested. Staff will reach out to determine the interest and willingness of the newly-nominated to serve. When enough people have been recruited, a poll will be distributed to the FSEC members so they can vote on each committee's composition.
- b. Proposed change to UM 10.90.16, administrator evaluation of the president. FS VP Nassersharif presented the draft amendment to Chapter 10 of the University Manual. It has already gained approval from the President and the BOT. The CBUM will now review the language with the goal of advancing it for adoption at the December 8 FS meeting.

5. Discussion Items

- a. Debriefing of the November 17 Faculty Senate Meeting - The fact that the Senate didn't make its way through the whole agenda is notable. In the future, when a significant presentation like the President's Budget Update is docketed, staff or the FS President will work with the presenter to make sure adequate time is allowed and the balance of the agenda is not over-programed.
- b. Ongoing - Updates on Manual Revisions & Policy Development - The FS President, using resources from the CBUM Chair, will communicate with all Committee Chairs to communicate the importance of working together to continue in-depth reviews of all recently promulgated "administrative" policies and drafted Manual revisions. Chairs will be reminded of their authority and responsibility to bring forward reports to refine, correct and otherwise improve these documents. The CASC and CTI, in particular, should be encouraged to bring relevant policy revisions forward forthwith.
- c. Draft Policy on Contract Approval and Signatory Authority (for 12/6/22 APC consideration). FSEC members began discussing the policy but tabled the matter and the remainder of the agenda to November 28 due to time constraints.
- d. Inquiry from Committee on Technology and Infrastructure
- e. Ongoing issue of OTL and outcomes assessments.
- f. Advance planning - Fall FSEC agendas:
  - Transition plan for Joanne Lawrence 's retirement
  - Other Administrators for visits?

6. Call for New Business - None

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