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## FSEC Minutes December 12, 2022

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)**

**December 12, 2022**

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

**MINUTES**

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

1. Call to order - Pres. Rice called the meeting to order at 8:30. VP Nassersharif and Senators Forrester, Gindy and Maier Speredelozzi were present.
2. Announcements
  - a. Update on President's Stewardship Council Meeting of 12/6/22 - The meeting featured a presentation from the RI Commerce Corp. which is entering into partnerships with URI for two major initiatives related to agriculture and aquaculture. They are exciting opportunities for the State and very much in line with the University's land and sea grant mission.
  - b. Update on 12/9/22 Meeting between FS Leadership and President Parlange - The meeting featured a recap of the 12/8 FS meeting. Also discussed were the different views of shared governance between the Faculty Senate and the Vice President for Administration's office. FS leadership is hopeful that the President's office can help facilitate a sort of meeting of the minds.
  - c. Update on 12/8/22 meeting between FS Leadership and Interim Provost Beauvais: This meeting featured similar topics as were discussed in the meeting with the President, especially the disconnect with the VP of Administration's approach to policy promulgation and UM updates. The group also discussed the issue of joint appointment positions where an individual becomes a Program Director (or similar title) and still serves as a 51% faculty member. The immediate question relates to evaluation procedures for such positions and whether or not they are or should be jointly evaluated. All such positions appear to be handled on a case by case basis as there is no standard protocol or uniform system in place. This is something that should likely be handled by the future Provost.

- d. Update on HR Policy Working Group meeting on 12/7/22 - this group is taking a deep dive into job descriptions and human resources policies. Pres. Rice is attending meetings and encourages everyone to keep an eye on the group's work. The AAUP and other unions are aware of the effort but are not involved, which is of some concern. Their work appears to be flowing from the BOT which seems inclined to take a more corporate approach to HR.
  - e. Armed intruder/Active shooter Response Planning session 12/9/22 - Pres. Rice attended a day-long training sponsored by the university's Emergency Response Coordinator and which included leaders of numerous offices across the university. Such trainings take place from time to time and are generally in response to incidents elsewhere in the country rather than any specific identified threat to this community.
3. Approval of Minutes
- a. FSEC minutes of November 21 and 28, 2022 - The November 21 minutes were approved and the November 28 minutes were tabled pending some edits.
4. Action Items
- a. Spring semester FSEC meeting scheduling - It was agreed the spring semester meetings will take place on Mondays from noon to 2 PM.
5. Discussion Items
- a. 12/8/22 Senate meeting debrief - There was general disappointment expressed about the meeting. There were technical issues and some bad online etiquette that exacerbated the negative feelings around how the meeting went. Following considerable debate, it was agreed that, while most agenda items are very straight-forward, there may be a need in some cases to better vet all docketed items to ensure that every report is ripe for consideration. Secondly, it was agreed that staff should draft some guidelines for hybrid meetings going forward to ensure decorum and guarantee that parliamentary procedure is followed. Another issue from the 12/8 meeting was the failure of a curricular proposal to gain the President's support. If the proposers feel it was rejected in error, they

have a right and obligation to better explain it and gain support. Their intent in that regard is not yet known.

- b. Tabled CBUM Report - Following some discussion, it was agreed that proposals to alter the Constitution or By-Laws of the Faculty Senate are extremely sensitive since those documents are considered the most permanent components of the UM. Ideally, any such proposal would have the support of the FSEC as well as the CBUM if it is to move forward for action by the full Senate.
  - c. Director of Office of General Education - evaluation procedures - related to item 2c above, it was noted that some of the joint positions probably have MOU's that provide for evaluations to take place outside the faculty member's department, but in other cases, there seems to be no formal instrument in place addressing evaluations. The latter seems to be the case for the Director of the Office of Innovation in General Education and likely also true for the Director of the Honors Program. It was agreed that the AAUP should be made aware that these split positions may eventually be problematic for faculty members.
  - d. Ongoing - Updates on Manual Revisions & Policy Development - It has been announced that Dean Barbara Wolfe will be the new Provost after the first of the year. FSEC members agreed she should be invited for a joint conversation very early in her term to be made aware of ongoing concerns about things like rapid policy promulgation and the need to further revise Appendix G.
  - e. Ongoing issue of OTL and outcomes assessments. Tabled.
  - f. Advance planning - Future FSEC agendas:
    - Transition plan for Joanne Lawrence 's retirement - It was agreed that the job description should be updated asap, The Coordinator will secure an official copy and send it out for review and editing.
6. Call for New Business - Pres. Rice recalled that the FSEC continues to have concerns about how Prior Learning Assessments are being handled and about the relationship between UCAS and CEPS more generally. The FSEC agreed Dean Libutti should be invited

early next semester for a discussion as he might shed some light on the vision for the future of UCAS.

7. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:31 AM.