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FSEC Minutes December 19, 2022

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

December 19, 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 8:32 AM by President Rice. VP Nassersharif and Senators Echevarria, Forrester and Gindy were present.
2. Announcements
 - i. On December 14, Senate Pres. Rice met with AAUP Executive Director Jay Walsh to discuss evaluation of faculty members with joint appointments as directors. Several joint appointments exist and their evaluation procedures are somewhat unclear. This particular conversation centered solely around the Dir. of Innovation in General Education who reports to both the Provost and the Faculty Senate. Agreement was reached wherein the position in the future will primarily report to the Provost but also report periodically to the Faculty Senate. The Provost's office will thus perform the evaluation. For the current evaluation period, however, during which the FSEC technically had oversight, the FSEC prefers not to be the evaluating party but FS President Rice will query the Director and the Provost and determine an appropriate path forward.
 - ii. On December 14, Senate Pres. Rice attended the ongoing meetings of the Human Resources Policy Working Group. Discussed at this meeting were faculty and professional staff policies. This appears to be an attempt to codify current HR practices university-wide. There was general agreement that significant stream-lining is in order. Pres. Rice suggested this is something that faculty, both individually and through the AAUP, should probably keep an eye on.
 - iii. On December 16, Senate Pres. Rice met with President Parlange, VP Rider & Chief of Staff Benson on the topic of revisions to the Public Safety and Parking Committee (U.M. 5.47.10 & ff) - The FS President and VP had expressed concerns about the draft revisions and these concerns prompted the subject meeting.

Concerns centered predominantly around changes to committee composition which would reduce faculty and staff input. The proposed change also calls for the VPAF to Chair the Committee which goes against normal protocols in that the purpose of the Committee is to advise employees in the VPAF's office. The VP should not be both the boss of and advisor to those employees. Advising committee members should be more objective and drawn from a larger pool of interest and talent.

iv. Today **Dec 19, 2022** is the 347th anniversary of the Great Swamp Fight in West Kingston and a good day for reflection about our Narragansett neighbors.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. FSEC minutes of November [28, 2022](#) and [December 5, 2022](#) - The minutes were tabled to give everyone more time to review and edit.

4. Action Items

- a. Nominating Committee - for January FS agenda - to present VP nominations at the February meeting (Per Section 5 of Appendix C of the University Manual). The Committee shall consist of 3 people (outgoing members of the Senate) and FSEC members agreed the group should be diverse and come from different disciplines. Several names were suggested and staff is asked to see who from among that group is willing and able to serve.
- b. Search Committee appointment - Dean of University Libraries. Interim Provost Beauvais has noted a search will begin in January and the Faculty Senate is to appoint two faculty members to serve. It was noted that the FSEC generally tries to suggest people who bring an outside perspective as other members of the committee will be internal appointments. The group agreed that it might be useful to have someone associated with media resources, the Launch Lab or Data Spark represented. A few names were suggested for staff to reach out to.

5. Discussion Items

- a. 12/8/22 Senate meeting debrief continued
 - i. The unsigned bill: By-Laws of the Faculty Senate, Section 10.3 requires the FSEC to send unsigned bills back to the Senate (where the proposer can withdraw it - or other action can be taken as described in 10.3). There was a substantive discussion about whether or not the faculty senate has any further role to play in advancing the bill. It was ultimately agreed that the math department, College of Arts and Sciences, and the Graduate Council would be well-served by having their own conversations with the President about his veto of the proposal and the Senate need not facilitate or be involved. If the department/College/Council feels the final decision was based on errors in fact, they have the option of correcting and clarifying the proposal and putting it back through. Staff will put it back on the January agenda as required at which point the proposers can provide an update.
 - ii. Meeting modalities and hybrid access guidelines - Draft guidelines for future hybrid meetings were reviewed and discussed at some length. It was ultimately agreed that the guidelines essentially attempt to do two things: 1) remind everyone of some basic online etiquette expectations, and 2) establish formal protocols for debate and voting that are consistent with parliamentary procedure and also workable in a hybrid modality. Going forward, when staff sends the meeting reminders and agenda out to the community, the “etiquette reminders” (having been pared down and softened somewhat) shall be included. The debate and voting protocols shall be part of a scripted “meeting procedures” announcement to be provided by the FS President at the start of each meeting.
- b. Tech issues (referred to Committee on Technology and Infrastructure) - FSEC members agreed that technology issues recently identified by other faculty members raise serious concerns in a variety of colleges and departments. Recently promulgated IT policies are now causing practical problems for many faculty members and those policies should be revisited asap. It was noted that

the rationale behind some policy provisions included cyber insurance requirements but it doesn't look like a real attempt was made to balance those needs against the needs of faculty members to be productive and responsive in their jobs. It was suggested that the CIO along with members of the IT Gov advisory committee be invited to a joint conversation with the FSEC and members of its own Technology and Infrastructure Committee. A community-wide announcement of any such meeting might also be a good idea, to solicit additional questions and concerns that the FSEC may not have yet heard.

- c. Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)- revisions to charge and membership. This subject was addressed briefly under "Announcements" and the full draft Charge and Membership of the PSAC was discussed in detail. Members noted some oddities in the committee's proposed composition and the voting rights assigned to each member. Further revisions to the draft are expected as a result of the meeting that occurred on 12/16.
- d. FS appointment to the Intellectual Property Committee - The Committee will need a third FS-appointed member starting in January as current appointee Maier Speredelozzi will no longer be serving. FSEC members agreed that someone with experience or expertise with patents or copyrights would be a good addition. Three potential candidates were suggested and staff will follow up. As FSEC members were reviewing the current composition of the IP Committee, a couple of observations were made. First, everyone agreed that the Committee should probably include a graduate student and this recommendation will be passed along to the VP for Research. Second, it appears that the VP of Research chairs this committee. This logic was questioned as it seems the purpose of the committee is to advise the VP of Research. The situation is comparable to the VP of Administration serving as Chair of the Parking and Public Safety Committee. The VP's should be advised that this is not a good practice and there should be a concerted effort to clean-up and

standardize the way advisory committees are composed to clarify the roles of ex officio members and voting versus non-voting members.

- e. Feb. 14 APC - (comments requested by Feb. 1)
 - i. Draft Policy on Collection and Use of COVID-19 Related Health Screening and Safety Information - The APC review timeline now accommodates additional input from the community. It was suggested that the draft policy be widely distributed to faculty and especially members of IRB, who might have greater insight into the implications of the policy. Input could be gathered over 10 or so days and compiled for presentation at the February APC meeting. Staff to send out to the FS contact lists.
 - f. Ongoing - Updates on Manual Revisions & Policy Development - Tabled.
 - g. Ongoing issue of OTL and outcomes assessments. Tabled
 - h. Advance planning - Fall FSEC agendas:
 - Transition plan for Joanne Lawrence 's retirement - updated job description. The job description had been disseminated last week and FSEC members offered comments and suggestions. The pay grade for the position may need to be reassessed and Pres. Rice offered to look at the pay scales and job descriptions for other "Specialist" positions to see if they are similar.
6. Call for New Business - FSEC members expressed disappointment that the VP for Global Initiatives recruitment did not involve a call for interest from among community members and that the application period was not greater than two weeks. Senator Gindy indicated a desire to flag these concerns officially to the HR Director and other members concurred that this was important.
7. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM