

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas
and Minutes

Faculty Senate

1-23-2023

FSEC Minutes January 23, 2023

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_execcom

Recommended Citation

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "FSEC Minutes January 23, 2023" (2023). *Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas and Minutes*. Paper 353.

https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_execcom/353

This Meeting Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas and Minutes by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons-group@uri.edu.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

January 23, 2023

12:00-2:00 PM

MINUTES

Pastore Conference Room RM224

(Remote option via ZOOM)

1. Call to order - FS President Rice called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM. Vice President Nassersharif and Senators Maier-Sperdelozzi, Echevarria, and Forrester were present.
2. Announcements
 - a. There has been a month-long set of weekly meetings on formulation of a unified policy on Employee Recruitment, Selection and Hiring. FS President Rice is involved along with the Vice Provost and the AAUP.
 - b. Dean Barbara Wolfe has assumed the Office of Provost beginning January 1. VP Nassersharif and Pres. Rice had an initial meeting with her on Jan 19 to discuss several topics including: Future of JCAP, Faculty web pages, Impact of rushed IT policies on faculty work, Impact of purchasing policies on faculty work, Learning Outcomes & efforts of the ATL Office, and Lingering Covid impacts.
 - c. Elaine Finan from OTL is working with FS Staff to add assessment planning as part of work flows for course approvals in Kualii.
 - d. Senator Denise Coppa of NUR has tendered her resignation from the Senate.
 - e. There is an open search for the new Dean of the COB. The search is being coordinated by an external search firm, Isaacson and Miller. FS President Rice was asked to participate. The level of confidentiality associated with the search firm's recruitment process is troubling to many faculty members who find it inconsistent with tradition and something of an affront to transparent decision-making. It also seems counterproductive, given the global connections the aggregated faculty have that could otherwise be brought to bear in vetting candidates. It was noted that the VP of Diversity and Inclusion is involved in the search, but concerns remain about how to verify that an inclusive process is

being used to recruit diverse candidates when an outside entity tightly controls the applicant pool. Some members commented that the Administration should be asked to justify expanding the use of the search firm hiring process to Deans when it had previously been used only for offices of the President, the VP's, and similarly ranked administrators.

- f. On Friday Jan 27 from 10-11am, there will be a webinar sponsored by the ATL Office on the topic of ChatGPT (artificial intelligence enabling sophisticated plagiarism). FSEC members have been following the rise of ChatGPT in academic settings and have grave concerns about its implications for academic integrity. It is not known exactly what the intent of the webinar is, i.e. whether it is an introduction to the technology or something more productive, like a deep-dive into effective and available counter-measures. FSEC members asserted that the Provost and CIO need to do more to address faculty concerns. If the University has software or other tools to reduce and discourage inappropriate use of AI, faculty members should be briefed and trained.
 - g. Senate President Rice has been called in for jury duty at the Washington County Courthouse beginning the morning of 24 Jan 2023. It is unclear how long this might last.
3. Approval of Minutes
- a. FSEC minutes of November 28, 2022 and December 5, 2022, continued from 12/19, as well as new draft minutes of the Dec 12 and Dec 19 meetings. The 11/28 and 12/5 minutes were approved unanimously following substantial revision. The 12/12 and 12/19 minutes were tabled to the 1/30/23 meeting.
 - b. FS minutes of the December 8 meeting. The minutes were approved as amended.
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. Recommended members who agreed to serve are: Linda Welters, Evan Preisser

and Chris Parker. The FSEC will put forward this slate of candidates on the 1/26 FS agenda and a vote will be taken.

- b. Search Committee appointment - Dean of University Libraries (2 appointees required; only one has consented to serve) Additional names were suggested for staff follow-up.
 - c. Finalization and Approval of 1/26/23 FS Agenda - The agenda was reviewed and ultimately approved with amendments. Staff was reminded that Old Business should be further down the docket. The CBUM reports were discussed in detail and one of the four reports submitted will be held for further refinement by the Committee. The remaining reports would be renumbered/re-labeled in time for posting the agenda.
 - d. FSEC vacancy created by resignation of Sen. Mayrai Gindy as she assumes her new position as Associate Dean of Engineering. The two candidates who vied for FSEC membership last April but were not elected were contacted and one of them, Mary Leveillee (CON) is able and willing to serve. Her name will appear on the 1/26/FS agenda as the FSEC nominee. Nominations can also be taken from the floor and a vote will be taken.
5. Discussion Items
- a. Chairperson James Bagalama of MTH joined the group at 1:00PM to discuss the presidential veto of his department's proposed Ph.D. Statistics Track. (Refer to Appendix C of the University Manual, Section 10.3). Chair Bagalama provided considerable background on the subject proposal and described current curricular and program overlaps affecting the Math Department along with Statistics and Computer Science. He offered a history of various attempts to restructure or reorganize to address these overlaps but they have not succeeded thus far. The FSEC discussed the issues at some length and then turned their attention to discerning the best path forward for the specific Track at hand. It was ultimately agreed that the proposal should be remanded to the Graduate Council which should work to address the concerns of all stakeholders. The FSEC

then moved that the Senate should take no further action unless or until they hear back from the Grad Council.

- b. Tech issues (continued from last meeting - referred to Committee on Technology and Infrastructure); discussion has begun with Provost Wolfe.
 - c. Public Safety Advisory Committee - revisions to charge and membership. This item emerged from discussions at the Presidential Stewardship Committee which has taken no further action on the revisions. President Rice will circle back to make sure no additional changes are being considered.
 - d. FS appointment to the Intellectual Property Committee - suggestions were made to gain representation from the Arts and Humanities or possibly the Harrington School. Staff will follow up.
 - 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 - Staff has distributed the draft to faculty in hopes of getting feedback in time for the next APC meeting.
 - f. Ongoing - Updates on Manual Revisions & Policy Development - tabled.
 - g. Ongoing issue of OTL and outcomes assessments - Learning outcomes assessment was differentiated from program assessment. It was noted that in assessing activities, continuity and adequate support are important. Attempts at assessment by rotating faculty members without ongoing staffing support tend to be ineffective.
 - h. Advance planning - Fall FSEC agendas:
 - Transition plan for Joanne Lawrence 's retirement - update job description - A final version of the draft job description was approved. FS President Rice will advance it to HR and the Provost's office.
6. Call for New Business - none
 7. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 12:05