

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

---

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas  
and Minutes

Faculty Senate

---

1-30-2023

## FSEC Minutes January 30, 2023

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen\\_execcom](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_execcom)

---

### Recommended Citation

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "FSEC Minutes January 30, 2023" (2023). *Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agendas and Minutes*. Paper 354.

[https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen\\_execcom/354](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_execcom/354)

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](mailto:digitalcommons-group@uri.edu).

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)**

**January 30, 2023**

**12:00-2:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**In person - 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 Leveillee, Maier-Speredelozzi, Echevarria, and Forrester were present.
2. Announcements
  - a. Welcome new FSEC member Mary Leveillee from the College of Nursing!
  - b. Paperwork associated with Joanne Lawrence's pending retirement has begun.
  - c. Meetings to codify HR policies are ongoing on a weekly basis. The AAUP and Professional Staff Association are represented in the working group. The policy reviews are comprehensive and detailed and will likely go on for a while.
  - d. FSEC members involved with COB dean's search - A search firm is being used but the FSEC is represented on the search committee. (Related to item 5b below)
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a. FSEC minutes of the Dec 12 and Dec 19, 2022 meetings. The 12/12 minutes were approved as amended following considerable discussion. Approved on a 3 - 1 vote with two members (Leveillee and Echevarria) abstaining. The 12/19 minutes were approved as written on a 4-0 vote with two members (Leveillee and Maier Speredelozzi) abstaining.
4. Action Items
  - a. Committee appointment updates - Dean of University Libraries Search - 2 appointees were agreed upon. Intellectual Property Committee - one replacement member being sought. Faculty previously suggested by FSEC have declined to serve. Additional names were offered. Staff will follow up. Student Conduct Board - the Dean of Students office has at least one hearing coming up.

One faculty member (Sen. Forrester) was confirmed to serve as the FS appointee to the Board and an additional member needs to be recruited.

b. Recap/Debrief of 1/26/23 FS Meeting

i. Take-Aways - It was suggested that the practice of pushing a short recap of meetings to faculty be reinstated. This seemed especially given the depth and breadth of the President's remarks at the 1/26 meeting and the need to get the word out about a pending referendum: It was suggested that recent personnel changes also be mentioned.

ii. Referendum Process and Logistics - The outcomes on the CBUM reports were discussed at some length. Upon further reflection, Senator Echevarria suggested that the referendum wording should perhaps not duplicate the reports proposing changes to UM Chapter 4. The key point seemed to be ensuring that the degree conferral authority and other specific actions could and should be delegated to the Faculty Senate but there may be other actions that still require a quorum of the General Faculty and should not be delegated. It was agreed the referendum questions should be crafted with this goal in mind.

5. Discussion Items

- a. FSEC Liaison assignments to standing committees - In light of Mayrai Gindy's departure from the Senate, the two committees to which she served as liaison will need replacements. New FSEC member Leveillee will remain on the General Education Committee. The Two Committees that now need liaisons are the Calendar Committee and the TAAC. There was a brief discussion about the role of the liaison and how formal that role is. It was noted the liaison is not required to go to every meeting but is a resource and a direct connection to the Chair should the standing committees need input from the FSEC or vice versa. FS President Rice will take over that role for the TAAC and Senator Leveillee will act as liaison to the Calendar Committee.
- b. Nominee to serve on the Research Foundation Board - Six names were suggested. A couple of candidates have shown interest in serving but it is

unknown if the others are available. Staff will finalize a list containing up to these six names for transmittal to the VP of Research/ED and the URIRF's Director.

- c. Discussion of IT policy issues - Senator Maier Speredelozzi noted she understands the IT Services division is getting flooded with complaints about the loss of administrator privileges for faculty members. The inability to accomplish simple tasks like loading presentations or running software updates is diminishing teaching and research effectiveness in myriad ways. The change in procedures was touted as a necessity due to cyber-insurance requirements but no one seems able or willing to point out exactly why such drastic changes were "required." Faculty members were troubled by the fact that the University's attorneys apparently drafted policy revisions without input from faculty or IT staffers to ensure that everyone's needs continue to be met. It was noted that some colleges seem to be more adversely affected than others and it was queried whether or not there might be a way to quantify the real cost of rolling out the new endpoint policies. Members agreed to review the recently adopted IT Endpoint Protection Policy as a starting point and be prepared to recommend revisions. The FS President and VP will bring concerns up in their next meeting with the University President. Senator Forrester, as the Director of Undergraduate Research, should likely be involved in that conversation. It was further agreed that at the February FS meeting, the Committee on Technology and Infrastructure should report on this issue and start a dialogue about concerns. The Research and TAAC Committees might also want to be involved.
- d. Growing use of executive search firms for administrators at dean level & above - FSEC members expressed myriad concerns, mostly centering around the lack of transparency in these processes. Closed processes like those managed by search firms fail to make use of vast community resources given that faculty members have contacts around the world that could be put to good use in vetting candidates. These processes could also have a bearing on diversity by controlling the overall applicant pool. It was also noted that recent searches *not* involving a

search firm also had oddities compared to past practices (limited application windows, no open call to faculty, etc.) which seems to call hiring practices into question more broadly. FS President Rice noted that he will bring this up with the President Parlange in the next scheduled leadership meeting with him. Members were curious to know the AAUP's position and it was agreed that the union's president should be invited to a future FSEC meeting.

- e. Meeting location for April 20 FS Meeting - The Welcome Center is not available and the Library's Galanti Lounge might also be unavailable due to construction on that date. Beaupre 105 was suggested. Staff will follow up.
  - f. Academic Integrity and AI - The Office for Advancement of Teaching and Learning has conducted one workshop but FSEC members want to know if more can be done to equip faculty sufficiently to counter the inappropriate use of programs like Chat GPT in an academic setting. There could be aspects of AI that faculty and students could embrace, but more needs to be known. It was suggested that the ATL Office be asked to lead a forum at a future FS meeting to take a deeper dive into the issue. Questions they should seek to answer would include: What resources can the University bring to bear to reduce or eliminate cheating with AI; can AI be used productively by faculty and students; and are there forms of assessment that are less vulnerable to AI's inappropriate use.
  - g. Feb. 14 APC - (comments requested by Feb. 1)
    - i. Draft Policy on Collection and Use of COVID-19 Related Health Screening. The Coordinator has distributed the policy to faculty in hopes of collecting comments and will resend it this week with a reminder. The IRB has also been contacted for comments.
    - h. Ongoing - Updates on Manual Revisions & Policy Development - tabled.
6. Call for New Business - none
7. Adjournment - the meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.