

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE

224 Pastore Hall, 51 Lower College Road, Kingston, RI 02881 USA p: 401.874.2616

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)
Meeting #41 April 22, 2020 Minutes
via WebEx**

- 1) CALL TO ORDER** The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) WebEx meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM by Chair Nassersharif. Vice-Chair Echevarria and Senators Barbour, Gindy, Hicks, and Morokoff were in attendance. Guest: President Dooley
- 2) MEETING OF FSEC WITH PRESIDENT DOOLEY**
 - a) Commencement Update** The President reported that there are various Commencement scenarios under consideration and final decisions on details will be made shortly. Under consideration are prerecorded addresses on May 16th (Graduate) and May 17th (undergraduate) from Edwards Auditorium, and a Fall commencement ceremony for both graduate and undergraduate students. The Fall Commencement ceremony will be dependent on COVID-19 policies at the time.
 - b) Board of Trustees Meeting** The initial Board of Trustees (BOT) virtual meeting went well. Margo Cook was elected Chair and Mike McNally was elected Vice-Chair. The Chair is now empowered to create and populate committees. The next virtual meeting is scheduled for the first week of May. A question was asked about the status of the policies reviewed by Vice President Rider. The review will be ready for discussion by the BOT at an upcoming meeting. President Dooley said there has been a systematic assessment and evaluation of bylaws and policies with much thought going into defining proper roles and responsibilities making sure language respects shared governance. Senator Gindy as the faculty representative to the BOT will receive copies of these documents. President Dooley confirmed that she would be welcome to share them with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, two nominees to the BOT are still awaiting final confirmation.
 - c) Budget Situation** There is uncertainty around the budget due to the Pandemic. The President stated that a freeze is in place on expenditures in order to conserve financial resources. An additional layer of approval has been established to ensure that all expenditures at this time are mission-critical. The President confirmed his own intent that faculty development funds, start-up funds, donor funds, and funds provided to faculty for certain service commitments be exempt. Ongoing searches will continue that are critical and necessary for student success and research. URI is expected to receive funds from the CARES act which will assist students. The goal is to have URI

emerge from this pandemic as an academic leader without layoffs or furloughs, excelling in the fundamental aspects of its mission. The administration will do its best to allow faculty to continue their scholarship, deliver the highest quality curriculum, and at the same time protect essential student services.

- d) Plans for fall semester** The President reported that a team of administrators, staff and the Vice Chair of the Senate is currently discussing a wide range of scenarios for delivering the curriculum in the fall semester in order to optimize resources and deliver the best possible experience to students while safeguarding the health and well-being of our community. The President thanked the FSEC leadership and the Faculty Senate and is optimistic that solutions will be found during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES** The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting #40, April 15, 2020 were postponed for approval to next FSEC meeting on 4/29/20.
- 4) CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORT** Chair Nassersharif gave an update on the Graduate School Dean search.
- 5) NOMINATIONS FOR SERVICE AWARDS** The FSEC reviewed nominations for the Sheila Black Grubman Faculty Outstanding Service Award and the Fritz Wenisch Award for Exceptional Contributions to the Faculty Senate. Award winners will be finalized at the next FSEC meeting April 29th.
- 6) NOMINATIONS FOR FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** The Nominating Committee is working on a slate of nominees and will have a finalized list by the next FSEC meeting.
- 7) URI 101 FOLLOW UP** Chair Nassersharif mentioned that we have a pending issue to discuss and upon which to act. FSEC will review the report prepared by the Committee on Teaching, Advising and Assessment and decide what recommendation to make with regard to improving URI 101.
- 8) FSEC ROLE DURING THE SUMMER** Discussion ensued around protocols and FSEC authority for major decision-making during the summer. The FSEC also discussed summer compensation for the Curriculum and Standards Committee working over the summer.
- 9) CONSIDERATION OF CHANGE OF TITLE OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR** The FSEC discussed changing the titles of Faculty Senate officers.
- 10) IMPLICATIONS OF BUDGET CONDITIONS ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS** The FSEC discussed implications of the challenging budget outlook and will continue to monitor the situation and any developments related to the budget.
- 11) ADJOURNMENT** The FSEC meeting adjourned at 11:49 AM.