

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE

At the December 11, 2014 Faculty Senate Meeting, the FSEC moved approval of changes to the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate, Section 5.1, Election of Officers.

5.1 In February of each academic year, the Senate shall elect for the following academic year for one-year terms a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson/Chair-elect for the following academic year who shall serve one year as Vice Chair/Chair-elect and a second, consecutive year as Chair. Senators who are elected to serve this two-year leadership position, as described, shall remain full members of the Faculty Senate as representatives of their colleges for the duration of their service even if the two-year position exceeds the three-year term limit as a Senator (Appendix C, section 2.1). The outgoing Chair whose term has expired shall continue as an ex officio member of the Executive Committee for a period of one year after expiration of the term as Chair, and shall be considered ex officio member of the Faculty Senate during the same year. At its organizational meeting in May, the Senate shall elect at least one senator for a one-year term on the Executive Committee. In order to ensure continuity, the remaining three members of the Executive Committee shall be elected to serve for two years. To stagger their terms, two of the 2-year term members shall be elected on even numbered years and the other 2-year term member on odd numbered years.

The motion was seconded and discussed. The proposed changes to By-Laws Section 5.1 will precipitate changes to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate. Professor Wenisch noted that the Constitution supersedes the By-Laws and must be approved prior to the By-Laws change. The process to change the Constitution requires a referendum of the General Faculty. Professor Wenisch advised that all potential changes to the Constitution in this academic year be well-considered and combined into a single referendum.

It is recommended that the vote to change Section 5.1, Election of Officers be postponed until the ad hoc Committee on Faculty Senate membership and faculty voting rights has completed its recommendations to the Senate.