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Abolition of Programs: New Sections 8.87.10 and 8.87.11 of the University Manual

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Serial Number #80-81--30

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE
BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

TO: President Frank Newman

FROM: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Abolition of Programs: New Sections 8.87.10 and 8.87.11 of the University Manual ,

is forwarded for your consideration.

2. The original and two copies for your use are included.

3. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on March 26, 1981 * (date).

4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Regents, completing the appropriate endorsement below.

5. In accordance with Section 8, paragraph 2 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective on April 16, 1981 (date), three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Regents for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Regents, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

March 27, 1981
(date)

Alvin K. Swonger
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

- -

ENDORSEMENT

Effective on 4/16/81 without Presidential approval.

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

1. Returned.

2. a. Approved _____.

b. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Regents _____.

c. Disapproved _____.

_____
(date)

_____
President

* Section 8.87.10 was approved on March 12, 1981

Form revised 7/78

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE

On March 12 and March 26, 1981, the Faculty Senate approved the following new sections of the University Manual recommended by the Executive Committee:

8.87.10 Abolition of Programs. When a recommendation for abolition of an existing program is initiated by an appropriate college or university committee or administrative official, the recommendation shall be reviewed by the appropriate college Dean, college curricular committee, and college faculty if the program is housed in a college; and in any case by the appropriate Faculty Senate Committee(s) (Curricular Affairs Committee and/or Research Policy and Facilities Committee) or Graduate Council, the Faculty Senate and the President. Review of the proposal for abolition by college or Senate committees below the level of the Faculty Senate shall result in a Statement of Opinion that shall be attached to the proposal as it proceeds through subsequent review steps, but shall not result in denial or approval of the recommendation, nor stop the proposal from proceeding to the Faculty Senate. The originator of the recommendation may, however, withdraw the proposal if convinced by review at any level that the recommendation should be withdrawn. Curricular Committees and college faculties shall address budgetary issues as well as academic issues in their review. The Graduate Council shall be included for review of graduate programs according to its established procedures. The originator shall present the recommendations to the Faculty Senate for its deliberation. Committees that have reviewed the proposal and have attached Statements of Opinion shall present the findings of their review to the Faculty Senate. Approval of the recommendation for abolition shall require the approval of the Faculty Senate and the President in the same manner as other legislative actions, as provided for in sections 10.2 to 10.6 of the Faculty Senate By-Laws.

8.87.11 Any program recommended for elimination shall be maintained until currently enrolled students (including University College students who have indicated preference for the program in writing prior to the President's signature of the recommendation for elimination) have completed the program, except that in no case shall this period of maintenance exceed the normal period of transit through the program by more than one year. Notification to students contemplating enrollment in the program shall be made at the time the President authorizes elimination of the program, but not sooner. For the purpose of providing adequate notice to prospective first-year students, elimination must be authorized prior to June 1 of the year previous to the final entering class.

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R. I. 02881
Office of the President, 401-792-2444

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Alvin K. Swonger
Chairman
Faculty Senate
Roosevelt Hall

DATE: April 21, 1981

FROM: Frank Newman

SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Bill 80-81-30

I have allowed the above bill, which deals with the abolition of programs, to pass without my signature. I have done this because, while in the overall I favor its passage, I have some reservations. The first paragraph, which clarifies the paths a proposal for the elimination of a program or department should traverse, seems to me an important step toward rational consideration of such concerns.

However, it is with the second paragraph that I have reservations. That paragraph calls for the maintenance of programs as long as any student wishes to continue the course except that in no case shall this period exceed the normal period of transit through the program by more than one year. We might have a program with 30 or 40 students enrolled, all of whom either graduate or transfer to other programs with the exception of perhaps one or two students who are unwilling to accept alternate arrangements. The University is then obligated to carry a program for as much as four additional years. Keep in mind that even without such legislation, we have managed to provide the continuity that the legislation is designed to provide save in one case - atmospheric sciences - where there was no easy way to do so. In that case alternate arrangements were made.

The second concern I have is that the legislation precludes the Dean notifying incoming students about any recommendation that has been made for elimination of a program. Obviously, there is danger (of the kind the legislation is attempting to address) that an ill-advised attempt could be made to eliminate a program by the informal method of announcing its demise to incoming students. On the other hand, this leaves informal or nonofficial communication to the student as the dominant mode. For example, there is probably no potential graduate student in Rhode Island who is not aware that a recommendation has been made about Speech Pathology and Audiology, yet out-of-state students are denied the same information. Experience so far indicates that we can have a discussion about the elimination of a program, make a decision to keep it and not kill the program.

Despite these two objections to the second paragraph, I have as I noted, agreed to the legislation by allowing it to pass the time period without a signature.

/ym