

2007

Academic Standards and Calendar Committee Report #2006-07-3.

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate

Serial Number #06-07--32

TO: President Robert L. Carothers

FROM: Michael A. Rice, Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Academic Standards and Calendar Committee Report #2006-07-3 is forwarded for your consideration.
2. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on April 19, 2007.
3. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Governors, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
4. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective May 10, 2007 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 Governors for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Governors, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

April 23, 2007
(date)

Michael A. Rice
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

Returned.

- a. Approved .
- b. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Governors ___.
- c. Disapproved ___.

4/23/07
(date)

President

**UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE**

**Academic Standards & Calendar Committee
Report #2006-07-3**

As approved by the Faculty Senate on April 19, 2007

The Academic Standards and Calendar Committee met on March 30, 2007 and addressed a number of items of business brought before it by the Faculty Senate. These items are reported below. Section I contains matters of information. Section II requires action by the Faculty Senate.

SECTION I - Informational

A. Thanksgiving Day Break

A discussion occurred in response to a memo sent by Vice President Thomas Dougan requesting that the Thanksgiving Recess commence one day earlier so that there is ample time available for students to travel. More information was needed as to the logistics and impact that this change would involve relative to the AY 2009-10, AY 2010-11 and AY 2011-12 calendars. This impact will be researched.

The tabling of this issue until the next meeting of the Committee was discussed, moved, seconded and passed.

B. Summer Session Calendar

The Summer Session Calendar was not discussed. Chair Boulmetis will contact Carla Simonini at CCE to inquire about the status of the 2009 Summer Calendar

C. Length of Add Period

This issues related to the "add period" referred again to the committee by Drs. Cohen and Rollo-Koster. The committee discussed this matter and again determined that no change to the language of Section 8 was necessary. Instead this was determined to be an issue of application and enforcement of the existing rules.

D. Dropping a course

Mr. Humphries brought up an issue related to 8.34.10 Dropping a course. I appears the there is confusion in the language of the policy and that there are actually three concepts in the language related to early drop course. The committee will review the language and recommend changes at its next meeting.

SECTION II - Requires Approval

The Academic Standards and Calendar Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate approve the following:

A. Designate May 1, 2007 as an optional make-up day for missed Friday classes.

Background: In order to allow class work to be made up for those classes that were canceled as a result of the one and one half days classes were canceled this Spring 2007 semester for inclement weather, a discussion occurred to identify a day where faculty for only those classes/ courses canceled by the closure, could be made up. Monday, May 1, 2007 was identified as a day that will count as both a Reading Day and Make-up Day for only those classes canceled.

B. Approve the revised proposed calendar for the 2012-2013 academic year:

Proposed Calendar - 2012-2013 Academic Year

Fall 2012

Advising Day will be on Tuesday, September 4, 2012

Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 5, 2012

Columbus Day classes will not meet on Monday, October 8, 2012

Election Day classes will not meet on Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Tuesday Classes will meet on Wednesday, November 7, 2012

Classes will meet on Monday, November 12, 2012 (**Veteran's Day**)

Thanksgiving Day classes will not meet on Thursday, November 22, 2012

Classes will not meet on Friday, November 23, 2012

Classes will end on Monday December 10, 2012

Reading Days will be Tuesday December 11 and Wednesday December 12, 2012

Final Exam Days will be December 13-14, 17-21, 2012.

Final Exam Make-up Day will be on Saturday December 22, 2012

Spring 2013

Advising Day would be on Tuesday, January 22, 2013

Classes will begin on Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Classes will meet on Monday, February 18, 2013 (**President's Day**)

Spring Break will be March 11-15, 2013

Classes will end on Tuesday April 30, 2013

Reading Days will be Wednesday May 1 and Thursday May 2, 2013

Final Exam Days will be May 3, 6-10, 13, 2013.

Final Exam Make-up Day will be on Tuesday May 14, 2013 (if needed)

Commencement Weekend will be May 18 & 19, 2013

Background: There was a discussion regarding the Advising Day for Spring 2013 semester. It was determined that Advising Day needs to occur while the Residence Halls are open. Therefore, Advising Day will occur on Tuesday, January 22, 2013. This requires classes to begin on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 and that classes be conducted on Monday, February 18, 2013 which is a not a State Holiday (President's Day).

Recommendations C and D become effective beginning in the fall 2007

*C. Amend section 8.26.13 as proposed

ORIGINAL

8.26.13 Faculty members bear responsibility for the evaluation of students and their professional judgment in this regard is to be respected. Undergraduate and graduate students who object to a recorded grade in a course should discuss the matter initially with the instructor. If the issue remains unresolved, students should make their case in writing to the instructor's department chairperson or immediate administrative supervisor. If the chairperson/supervisor thinks the appeal has merit,

*Changes to sections 8.26.13, 8.52.20 and 8.52.21 become effective beginning in the fall 2007.

she/he should so inform the instructor. If this still fails to produce resolution, the chairperson/supervisor should refer the matter to a departmental or college appeals committee for a recommendation. (The latter would be appropriate in colleges lacking departments; otherwise, the case would go to a departmental committee. For petitions concerning grades, appeals committees at both levels shall include a faculty member from a closely allied department or discipline.) If, after investigating the appeal, the committee concludes that compelling reasons exist to modify a grade, it will give the instructor a written explanation of its decision and ask that person to make the change. If the instructor still declines, he/she must provide the committee with a written explanation of the reasons for refusing. If, after considering the instructor's explanation, the committee agrees unanimously that it would be unjust to let the original grade stand, it may recommend to the chairperson/supervisor that the grade be changed over the instructor's objection. The chairperson/supervisor will then initiate the change, notifying the instructor, the student, the instructor's dean, the student's dean, and the Office of Student Affairs of this action. The only exception to these guidelines shall be in cases where the instructor can no longer be consulted (e.g., that person has died or moved to an unknown address). In these circumstances, the appropriate chairperson/supervisor can act in the stead of the absent instructor and modify a student's grade if a departmental or college appeals committee unanimously recommends such action in writing. In general, grades under appeal should not be considered when evaluating students for continuance in an academic program or for scholarship eligibility. (See section 8.56.10 concerning time limits for changes to recorded grades. Regarding cases involving cheating and plagiarism, see sections 8.27.10 through 8.27.21. For cases involving harassment/discrimination, see University Manual Appendix G, Policy #85-1.)

PROPOSED

8.26.13 (changes in BOLD) Faculty members bear responsibility for the evaluation of students and their professional judgment in this regard is to be respected. Undergraduate and graduate students who object to a recorded grade in a course should discuss the matter initially with the instructor. If the issue remains unresolved, students should make their case in writing to the instructor's department chairperson or immediate administrative supervisor. If the chairperson/supervisor thinks the appeal has merit, she/he should so inform the instructor. If this still fails to produce resolution, the chairperson/supervisor should refer the matter to a departmental or college appeals committee for a recommendation. (The latter would be appropriate in colleges lacking departments **or where department faculty have voted to delegate the authority to a college appeals committee.** For petitions concerning grades, appeals committees at both levels shall include a faculty member from a closely allied department or discipline.) If, after investigating the appeal, the committee concludes that compelling reasons exist to modify a grade, it will give the instructor a written explanation of its decision and ask that person to make the change. If the instructor still declines, he/she must provide the committee with a written explanation of the reasons for refusing. If, after considering the instructor's explanation, the committee agrees unanimously that it would be unjust to let the original grade stand, it **shall direct** the chairperson/supervisor that the grade be changed over the instructor's objection. The chairperson/supervisor will then initiate the change, notifying the instructor, the student, the instructor's dean, the student's dean, and the Office of Student Affairs of this action. The only exception to these guidelines shall be in cases where the instructor can no longer be consulted (e.g., that person has died or moved to an unknown address). In these circumstances, the appropriate chairperson/supervisor **shall** act in the stead of the absent instructor and modify a student's grade if a

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departmental or college appeals committee unanimously recommends such action in writing. In general, grades under appeal should not be considered when evaluating students for continuance in an academic program or for scholarship eligibility. **The filing of the appeal must occur within two semesters following the issuing of the grade.** (See section 8.56.10 concerning time limits for changes to recorded grades. Regarding cases involving cheating and plagiarism, see sections 8.27.10 through 8.27.21. For cases involving harassment/discrimination, see University Manual Appendix G, Policy #85-1.)

Background: Several problems were identified during the 2006-07 academic year as implementation of section 8.26.13 began. At the request of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the committee discussed issues related to the wording of 8.26.13 Grade Appeals Procedures.

*D. Amend sections 8.52.20 and 8.52.21:

"... at least one semester" Must be changed to "... at least two semesters" in both of those sections.

Background: See item C above.

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