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11-21-1968

## Approve General Policy and Guidelines Regarding visits of Controversials Persons on URI Campus

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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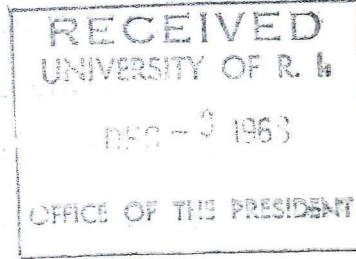
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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE

BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate



TO: President Werner A. Baum

FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

1. The Attached BILL, titled Approve General Policy and Guidelines Regarding Visits of Controversial Persons on URI Campus

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 November 21, 1968 (date) (recessed meeting)

4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Trustees, 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 December 12, 1968 (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 Trustees for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Trustees, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

December 2, 1968 (date)

Agnes G. Deady /s/ Chairman of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

To be submitted to Board for approval in January 1969

1. Returned.

2. Approved Disapproved

3. (If approved) In my opinion, transmittal to the Board of Trustees is not necessary.

12/3/68 (date)

W.A.B. /s/ President

ALTERNATE ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

FROM: The University President

- 1. Forwarded.
- 2. Approved.

\_\_\_\_\_ /s/  
 (date) President

ENDORSEMENT 2.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Chairman of the Board of Trustees, via the University President.

- 1. Forwarded.

\_\_\_\_\_ /s/  
 (date) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Office)

ENDORSEMENT 3.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: The University President

- 1. Forwarded from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

\_\_\_\_\_ /s/  
 (date) President

Original received and forwarded to the Secretary of the Senate and Registrar for filing in the Archives of the University.

\_\_\_\_\_ /s/  
 (date) Chairman of the Faculty Senate

(sabb)

(TNS)

## POLICY REGARDING VISITS BY CONTROVERSIAL PERSONS

### INTRODUCTION

The University with full support of the Board of Trustees is committed to a policy of freedom for recognized student and faculty organization in the selection of "persons they wish to invite to the campus . . . as guest speakers" (University Manual, 4.3.1 b and 8.1.1 e). Maintenance of such an open forum inevitably and properly means that on some occasions persons representing highly controversial ideas or programs will be brought to the campus, and that their presence will generate protest as well as support. A philosophy of responsible freedom must underlie every effort to meet whatever problems arise from such encounters. This philosophy demands the middle course of reason and moderation, avoiding on the one hand the evils of suppression of opinion, thought-control, and enforced conformity, and on the other hand the evils of uncontrolled violence, physical destruction, and anarchic conflict. Only thus can the University fulfill its obligation to its own members and to society at large.

To the University, order is essential so that faculty and students can proceed with their proper primary business, the search for and dissemination of truth. At the same time, the University must foster a spirit of free inquiry; it must not merely tolerate but actually encourage freedom of expression and exercise of the right to dissent. This means welcoming the statement of unpopular and minority opinions as well as those generally received and popularly held. It means calling upon students, faculty, and all other members of the University community to reject violence while with almost the same voice advising them to make use of their inalienable right in a free democracy to disagree and to assemble for orderly protest.

The University has a dual role: while serving the existing order, it must at the same time continually evaluate the status quo. It must therefore be mindful of its responsibility to operate within the laws established by society, but it

must do so without inhibiting or suppressing the right to analyze, judge, protest, and advocate change or reform of these laws. In other words, it must provide an atmosphere in which dissenting opinions may be freely aired, even if they are expressed in passionate terms. In offering such a forum, of course, it does not condone passionate action or mob violence.

This ideal of responsible freedom requires a high level of self-control and self-government. The entire campus community must be involved. Experience elsewhere has shown the unwisdom of creating an environment or system in which people can be bullied, tear-gassed, or beaten, for such physical abuse merely leads to bitter and violent reaction. Thus the "garrison philosophy" of seeking order through extensive use of police power on the campus must be rejected, and self-discipline must prevent the creation of conditions that might tempt the interference of "outside" authority in the form of municipal or state police or legislative investigators. It is equally essential that no threat of academic reprisal be made within the University to curb the lawful exercise of individual expression.

#### GUIDELINES

In keeping with this general policy, it is recommended that the following guidelines be adopted for visits to the campus by controversial persons:

1. In all circumstances the civil rights and liberties of every person involved shall be fully respected and protected from any abridgement whatsoever. Thus, there shall be no interference with orderly picketing and with other lawful forms of protest.

2. Routine procedures required by the University in connection with the appearance of a guest speaker should be designed only to ensure that there is orderly scheduling of facilities and adequate preparation for the event, and that the affair is conducted in a manner appropriate to an academic community. University control of campus facilities should not be used as a device of censorship.



3. When it is known that a potentially controversial person is expected on the campus, with the likelihood of generating some form of protest or demonstration, the President of the University or his designated representative shall make every effort to arrange prior discussions with the probable protesting group or groups. The only purpose of such meetings shall be to establish mutually agreeable arrangements. In no case, however, shall such discussion be construed as implying University endorsement of the protestors' position.

4. If a formal protest or demonstration is held, it shall not be confined to a specified area, but persons, or signs or other devices used to express the protest, shall not block sight, hearing, access or egress, or otherwise interfere with the orderly conduct of the event being protested or of normal University activities. In order to attain the latter objective, certain areas in which protest activity is to be prohibited may be defined in advance by mutual agreement between the University and the protesting parties.

5. In the event of a visit to the University by a highly placed government official or a highly controversial person, special arrangements for the visit may be required. Any such arrangements shall be made by the University. Special rules and procedures shall be devised and promulgated by a special University Committee representing the University Administration including its police force, the faculty, and the student body. Representatives of outside agencies may be invited either to advise or to serve upon the committee. In all such cases, the University shall maintain final control over arrangements, consistent with University rules and regulations.

6. If any special rules are adopted they shall be given wide publicity well before the event to which they apply. It is expected that every person on the campus will act in a lawful manner and observe general and special University regulations. The Vice President for Student Affairs or his designated representa-

tative shall be present at all occasions when controversy is liable to arise and will request persons acting in an unseemly manner to desist from such action. Members of the campus community are subject to the disciplinary procedures stated in the University Manual (sections 5.1.8 and 6.4.6).

7. The Campus Police shall normally handle such routine matters as traffic regulation in accordance with established procedures, and whatever problems arise from action in contravention of previously announced policies. Only in the event of violence, or of clear, unmistakable indications of probable violence, shall the responsible University official in attendance authorize a call for additional assistance.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. the general policy developed in this report be adopted and that the guidelines suggested by the Committee be incorporated in the University Manual.
2. an advisory committee on the University Police consisting of representatives of the University administration, the faculty, and the student body be created and charged with the responsibility for continual review of policing policy and procedures on the University campus.
3. action to increase the level of training of campus policemen should be continued. In addition to the usual technical training it is important that these men receive thorough training in the areas of civil rights and human relations. Such additional training would amply justify enlarged compensation, a necessity for recruitment of qualified personnel.
4. the University investigate the desirability of appointing a legal officer to advise members of the university community in all cases involving possible violation of their civil rights.

Judith A. Butterman  
M. Dorothy Massey

Raymond P. Rainville  
Stanley Rubinsky

Robert P. Sorlie  
Wm. D. Metz, chair