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## Advisory Committee for Administrative Appointments

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Office of the President

October 20, 1969

Professor Walter C. Mueller  
Vice Chairman, Faculty Senate  
Watson House

Dear Walter:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, Faculty Senate bill #258, "Advisory Committees for Administrative Appointments."

I want to emphasize that my disapproval is not based on the basic objective of the bill as I understand it. Indeed, the appointments of several deans and of two Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs since my arrival must make it clear that I wish to have meaningful faculty involvement in the appointment process. However, under existing circumstances and as enacted, the bill presents practical problems which would either cause me to act in violation of the bill or to have undue and unnecessary faculty involvement.

The basic problem, as recognized in the bill, is the broad spectrum of positions enumerated in section 2.3 of the Faculty Manual.

For example, there is included the Director of the Bureau of Government Research. This is, in my opinion, not really an administrative post, but one comparable to a departmental chairmanship. More likely than not, if that post were to be filled, it would be through an assignment of responsibility to a faculty member. There are also included such posts as, for example, the Director of Dining Services, which are quite technical in nature and which do not require the involvement of "at least two faculty members" in the selection process. While I do wish to maximize appropriate faculty involvement, I neither wish to waste faculty time which should be devoted to more important matters nor unduly tie the hands of particularly the Vice President for Business Affairs and the Vice President for Public Relations.

I suspect that it would be wisest if we were to approach this problem in some sequential fashion, first revising section 2.3, and then seeking to find agreement on positions to which the proposed procedure would formally apply.

I trust you will understand my position, and I would be glad to discuss the matter with whomever the Senate designates.

Cordially,



Werner A. Baum  
President

hgo  
cc: Vice President Archer

nclosure

Serial Number #258

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE

BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

RECEIVED

OCT 17 1969

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
FACULTY SENATE

TO: President Werner A. Baum

FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

- 1. The Attached BILL, titled Advisory Committee for Administrative Appointments

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 May 22, 1969 (date).
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (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. \*\*

October 14, 1969  
(date)

Walter C. Russell /s/  
Chairman of the Faculty Senate  
W.C. Russell

--- \*\* (See Attached Letter) ---

ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

- 1. Returned.
- 2. Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved ✓.
- 3. (If approved) In my opinion, transmittal to the Board of Trustees is not necessary.

10/16  
(date)

Werner A. Baum /s/  
President

ALTERNATE ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded.
2. Approved.

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

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ENDORSEMENT 2.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

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

1. Forwarded.

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

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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

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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



AD HOC COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

April 1969

This committee was charged with the task of suggesting a policy regarding the formation, the scope, and the responsibilities of advisory committees to be appointed to assist in the selection of members of the University administration.

A letter requesting comments and suggestions was sent to all deans, many other administrative officers, and to most of the faculty members who had served or are presently serving on advisory committees. In addition, many other faculty members were consulted by the members of this committee.

In reaching our conclusions, the committee followed a philosophy which was very well expressed in a letter from Dean Robert C. Spencer:

"I think it important that we preserve presidential discretion in making appointments while at the same time provide the widest possible consultation with those people, students, faculty and other administrators who might be affected by the President's decisions. I, therefore, feel that wide discretion should be left to the President in determining the composition of such screening committees and that no one group within the University should be dominant. For example, some appointments should include a healthy distribution of administrators, faculty and students; others might have no students and all faculty; and still others might be made up of a majority of administrators and fewer faculty. Such a screening committee, if used consistently, would assist in acceptance of presidential appointments on the widest possible basis."

It should be noted that this committee relies on the faculty manual (section 2.3) for its definition of "Administrative Officers". Any attempt to construct a new list would lead to confusion, duplication and the necessity for constant revision to meet changes. However, it should be pointed out that section 2.3 of the manual must be revised to reflect the current administrative structure. For instance, the title "Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost" is no longer in effect. We now have a Provost for Marine Affairs and a Provost for Health Sciences. Finally, it is highly questionable that the Assistant to the President is in the direct line of administration but is, in fact, a staff function.

This committee therefore recommends:

1. That section 2.3 of the faculty manual be studied and revised in order to bring it up to date.
2. That the following statement, subject to editorial revision, be adopted by the Faculty Senate and added to the faculty manual.

4.1.3 Appointment of Administrative Officers

- a. When an administrative position (as defined in section 2.3) is to be filled, an advisory committee shall be appointed. The advisory committee shall assemble a suitable list of candidates as suggested by any member of the administration, faculty, or other suitable source. The committee's function will be to screen the qualifications and to make recommendations regarding the candidates to the President. The President shall make the

*except that of the Pres.*

