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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

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Serial UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND	Number	#258
FACULTY SENATE		, x
BILL	REC	EIVED
Adopted by the Faculty Senate	OCT	17 1969
President Werner A. Baum		OF RHODE ISLAND
M: Chairman of the Faculty Senate	PROOF	TY SERATE
The Attached BILL, titled Advisory Committee for Admi	nistrati	ve Appointments
		,
is forwarded for your consideration.		9 Her
The original and two copies for your use are included.		
This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on		
After considering this bill, will you please indicate you disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Bo completing the appropriate endorsement below.	r approv	
In accordance with Section 8, paragraph 2 of the Senate's bill will become effective on (date), t after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for imwritten into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (it to the Board of Trustees for their approval; or (4) t Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwall Board of Trustees, it will not become effective until approval.	hree wee aplementa 3) you d he Unive arded to	eks ation are forward ersity the
October 14, 1969 (date) ** (See Attached Letter) ** (See Attached Letter)	aculty S	/s/ Senate
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Chairman of the Faculty Senate		
M: President of the University		
Returned.		

President

Form approved 11/65

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ENDORSEMENT 1.

Approved

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ENDORSEMENT 2.	
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Original received and forwarded to the Secreta filing in the Archives of the University.	ary of the Senate and Registrar
	/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.

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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
 - agreept that of the Pres. 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

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final recommendation to the Board of Trustees and, in so doing, should take into consideration the recommendations of the advisory committee.

The advisory committee should ordinarily consist of five people appointed by the President. The members should be drawn from those segments of the academic community (including students) which have a most immediate interest or expertise in the position to be filled. At least two faculty members shall be appointed to each advisory committee. The committee may be enlarged when wider representation of interests is deemed desirable. The President may seek nominations to the committee from the appropriate academic bodies.

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When the appointment of a President becomes necessary, the advisory committee as prescribed above, will be appointed by the Board of Trustees who may seek nominations to this committee from the Faculty Senate.

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J. J. McGuire M. O. Sayles

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