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Recommendations for Further Study: Educational Procedures and Facilities Committee

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#254

Vice President James Archer

July 14, 1969

Werner A. Baum, President

Original signed by
Werner A. Baum

I have approved Faculty Senate Bill #254, approving the recommendations in the attached "Final Report of the Faculty Senate Committee on Educational Procedures and Facilities."

Please take the necessary actions either through the University Space Committee, through Mr. Sullivan's office, or by any other means you deem appropriate.

I would suggest that you be prepared to submit a report on follow-up to the Faculty Senate not later than its February 1970 meeting.

jen

cc: Professor Goertemiller ✓

Attachment

RECEIVED

JUL 16 1969

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE

Serial Number #254

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE

BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY OF R. I.
JUN - 3 1969
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TO: President Werner A. Baum

FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

1. The Attached BILL, titled Recommendations for Further Study: Educational Procedures and Facilities Committee

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 29, 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 June 19, 1969 (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.

June 2, 1969
(date)

[Signature] /s/
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

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.

7/13/69
(date)

[Signature] /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

BILL #254

IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE FOLLOWING TOPICS BE INVESTIGATED:

1. A determination of the feasibility of releasing at least some of the 80 rooms -- not now open to general scheduling -- to the University Scheduling Officer.
2. The establishment of some mechanism within the Scheduling Office which will permit a more effective scheduling and use of seminar-type rooms and large group instructional space.
3. A study by the University Space Committee to determine the feasibility of renovating and properly equipping some of the existing seminar and large group spaces so that more adequate use can be made of them.

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE
WATSON HOUSE

FINAL REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL
PROCEDURES AND FACILITIES

May, 1969

The Committee decided to focus attention this academic year on the adequacy of seminar-type classrooms, large classrooms, and lecture halls for instructional purposes. It was not concerned at this time with laboratories or other rooms of a highly specialized character. The Committee considered both numbers of rooms available for instruction, and the suitability of their facilities for the purposes to which they are currently being put.

Extensive interviews were held with academic and administrative personnel, and questionnaires were sent to all Department Chairmen, and to the President of the Student Senate for the purpose of soliciting their views on this matter. A tabulation was made not only of existing instructional space, but of facilities to be constructed in the near future.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

In general, the Committee found the following to be the situation with respect to small and large instructional space:

- (1) There has been difficulty in finding available seminar-type rooms.
- (2) Some of the lecture halls are found to be unsuitable for the instruction of the maximum number of the students they presently hold.
- (3) Some of the seminar rooms which are potentially available are under-utilized.
- (4) It is the opinion of the Committee that much of the problem of under-utilization of instructional space is a result of failure to schedule classes in the early morning and late afternoon hours, or unwillingness to hold classes in rooms not immediately adjacent to departmental offices.
- (5) There are 80 classrooms on the campus which for one reason or another are not available for general scheduling. Many of these could be used as seminar rooms.
- (6) The completion of the Social Science Center and the new Biological Sciences Building will help considerably to alleviate the above problems.

SALIENT RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE.

It appears most faculty and student seminar rooms should accommodate 15-18 students seated around a central table with reasonably comfortable chairs. There seems to be some concern that the rooms be well ventilated and supplied with blackboards and other visual aid equipment. About 40% of the reporting departments cannot find adequate facilities of this nature on campus. If all new

buildings to be constructed contain one or two rooms of this type, this would go a long way towards alleviating the problem. All existing buildings which do not have such a room should be renovated so that they do.

With regard to large group instruction, the majority of adverse comments centered on Green Hall, Edwards Hall, and Independence Auditorium. The following indicate the principal difficulties encountered in teaching in these rooms:

- (1) Accoustical conditions mitigate against effective teaching to a full audience in these facilities, especially Green Hall.
- (2) With the exception of Edwards Hall viewing conditions from the rear seats are generally unsatisfactory.
- (3) Adequate ventilation is absent in all three lecture halls.
- (4) The technical equipment needed in rooms of this size is unacceptable.

FACILITIES IN PROJECTED NEW CONSTRUCTION

Two new instructional buildings are presently in the design stage; Phase I of the Social Science Center, and the Biological Sciences Building. With respect to the first, the following modern instructional spaces will become available:

- (1) A lecture hall to seat approximately 500 students.
- (2) Two tiered lecture rooms to seat approximately 80 students each.
- (3) One tiered lecture room seating approximately 110 students.
- (4) Eighteen seminar-type rooms.

The lecture halls will be adequately equipped for audiovisual usage.

A second large lecture hall is the early plan for the Biological Sciences Building.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends that three topics merit further investigation:

- (1) A determination of the feasibility of releasing at least some of the 80 rooms -- not now open to general scheduling -- to the University Scheduling Officer.
- (2) The establishment of some mechanism within the Scheduling Office which will permit a more effective scheduling and use of seminar-type rooms and large group instructional space.
- (3) A study by the University Space Committee to determine the feasibility of renovating and properly equipping some of the existing seminar and large group spaces so that more adequate use can be made of them.

The material supporting the conclusion and recommendations made herewith are filed in the Faculty Senate Office and may be inspected by members of the University.

Respectfully submitted,

Rawland Cresser
Peter R. Merenda
Edward H. Pauley
William R. Rosengren
Frederick L. Test
Lewis L. Alexander, Chairman