4-20-1972

FINAL REPORT ON SCRATCH PROGRAM REVIEW, APRIL 1972

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

Serial Number 71-72-32

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 FINAL REPORT ON SCRATCH PROGRAM REVIEW, APRIL 1972

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 72-4-20 (date).

4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Regents, 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 72-5-11 (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.

April 21, 1972 (date)

Stephen P. Lehmann /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 Regents is not necessary.

5/1/72 (date)

William R. Barger /s/ President

(OVER)

Form Revised 6/71

ALTERNATE ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Board of Regents.

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 Regents, 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 Regents.

_____ _____/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

FACULTY SENATE GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FINAL REPORT ON SCRATCH PROGRAM REVIEW, APRIL 1972

As instructed by the Faculty Senate under Bill # 70-71-23, Part I(2b), the General Education Committee has reviewed the University's special experimental writing program called SCRATCH. This program was proposed by the Special Senate Committee on Communications in April 1970 and has been conducted on an experimental basis for the academic years 197071 and 1971-72. The present committee now wishes to make the following recommendations concerning the future of SCRATCH.

We recommend:

1. That the SCRATCH program be continued indefinitely and become a permanent part of the University curriculum.

2. That the SCRATCH program be made into a new Department of Writing in the College of Arts and Sciences. ~~and that the present administrative procedure continue until the new department is established.~~ sent to Curricular Affairs Committee

~~3. That a committee be formed by the Faculty Senate to develop a proposal for establishing a new Department of Writing.~~

4. That course descriptions be written for the SCRATCH courses and listed in the catalog under the subheading COMMUNICATIONS.

5. That the present Pass/No-Credit grading ~~system~~ option for SCRATCH be retained.

6. That the present "variable-credit" system for SCRATCH be retained and that the decision as to the specific number of credits be made by mid-semester by each student.

DISCUSSION:

After distributing written background material at an earlier meeting, the committee met in April for two lengthy and intensive reviews and discussions of the SCRATCH program. Besides accepting written communications from students, faculty, and administrators, the committee interviewed several key staff members at these meetings, including SCRATCH Instructors Sue Beckman and Linda Shamoon, Chairman Jordan Miller of the English Department, Professor Stephen Wood of the Senate Special Committee on Communications, Professor Douglas Kraus of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, and Deans Frank Russo and Wilbur Doctor of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The committee is convinced that the SCRATCH program has been a striking success. Faculty achievements and student motivation and effort have both been high, and the course goal of increasing the writing skills of our students have been well met. In short, the image projected by this program is one of excellence - consistent quality in the performance of a vital teaching service for the entire University community - couched in a progressive framework which seems to suit its purposes perfectly. Thus, as part of our review, we find no significant reason for changing the rather special provisions they have adopted for Pass/No-Credit grading and variable-credit scheduling. It is probably more appropriate that we await further provocative teaching ideas from this group.

We have concluded that the SCRATCH program deserves not only retention but also a home of its own, devoted wholeheartedly to the teaching of the craft of writing whose skills are so important to all our students. Such a home would allow a measure of faculty security and provide a framework for possible expansion to include other phases of the writing craft, such as creative writing or possibly remedial writing - if we continue to admit freshmen who are not familiar with the mechanics of their language. We feel that the best way to achieve these goals is to form the program into a Department of Writing in the College of Arts and Sciences, and we have called for a special Senate committee to formulate the details for such a department. We do not feel that it is necessary to include other aspects of "communication" into this proposed new department, since, for example, the teaching of oral communication is now well attended to by the Department of Speech.

To summarize: We have reviewed the SCRATCH program. We like it. We hope that it will now receive the full status it deserves.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White, Chairman
Walter Cane
Conception Castro
John DeFeo
John Hanke
Donald McCreight
Edward Pauley
Brooks Sanderson
Marion Fry