

5-18-1972

FIRST REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FLEXIBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION, as amended

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Serial Number 71-72-42
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE

BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY OF R. I.
MAY 26 1972
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TO: President Werner A. Baum
FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

1. The Attached BILL, titled FIRST REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FLEXIBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION, as amended.

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 72-5-18 (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 72-6-8 (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.

May 24, 1972
(date)

Stephen B. Wood /s/
Chairman of the Faculty Senate
STEPHEN B. WOOD

ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate
FROM: President of the University

RECEIVED
MAY 30 1972
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE

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

5/26/72
(date)

Werner A. Baum /s/
President

(OVER)

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

First Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Flexibility in Higher Education

RECOMMENDATION #1

The Ad Hoc Committee on Flexibility in Higher Education moves that the Senate adopt the policy of allowing the college autonomy for the offering of experimental courses on a temporary basis, each course to be offered not more than twice within two successive calendar years before it must seek approval through the normal channels. Any such experimental course must have the approval of the departmental faculty proposing the course and the dean of the college concerned. These courses will be listed in the schedule of courses under Experimental Courses and in the regular course listings, with identity as an experimental course. After approval at the departmental level, an informational copy of the title, subtitle and a syllabus will be sent to the college curriculum committee via the academic dean, with an information copy to the CAC and in the case of graduate level courses to the Graduate Council.

RECOMMENDATION #11

The Ad Hoc Committee on Flexibility in Higher Education moves that the Faculty Senate approve the establishment of experimental interdisciplinary courses agreed upon by the faculty of any two or more departments within the University. These courses will be offered no more than twice in a two successive year period before being subjected to the standard curricular process. These courses must have the approval of the Dean of the college when only one college is involved and in addition of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, if more than one college is involved. Courses offered by two or more departments will be announced by the departments concerned and listed in the schedule of classes under Experimental Interdisciplinary Courses. After approval at the departmental level, an informational copy of the title, subtitle and a syllabus will be sent to the college(s) curriculum committee via the academic dean(s), with an information copy to the CAC and in the case of graduate level courses to the Graduate Council.

April 20, 1972

TO: The Faculty Senate

FROM: Ad Hoc Committee on Flexibility in Higher Education

SUBJECT: First Report of the Committee

The Ad Hoc Committee on Flexibility in Higher Education has met and has begun the process of setting goals and detailing the work to be done by the committee. We realize that all of us must do an enormous amount of reading and thinking in order to bring to the Senate the best thought-out plans for the University of Rhode Island.

The committee has carefully considered two preliminary steps that it is recommending to the Faculty Senate for immediate implementation in order to permit increased flexibility in adjusting curricular needs to a fast-changing society.

1. The committee feels that the present structure for adding new courses to the curriculum is extremely cumbersome and that in some senses the system implies that faculty members of departments are not to be trusted in their judgment concerning the need for offerings in their own fields. We recommend that the Senate grant autonomy to every academic department so that that department after conference and by majority vote and on an experimental basis may offer any course that it desires no more than twice within a period of two years; provided it can obtain the approval of the dean.

This freedom at the college level will not result in the proliferation of courses, inasmuch as the course must go through the present machinery before it can be added permanently to the departmental offerings, and the experimental basis also provides opportunity for the professor who teaches it and the department that sponsors it to work out any problems in the course so that if it is presented for permanent approval it has already been tested. It also has the advantage of letting the department utilize the specialized knowledge of visiting professors. Such courses could be taught as part of the normal faculty load or on an overload basis for a short period of time by any faculty member whose enthusiasm for the subject might motivate him or her to take on a temporary overload.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Flexibility in Higher Education moves that the Senate adopt the policy of allowing the college autonomy for the offering of experimental courses on a temporary basis, each course to be offered not more than twice within two calendar years before it must seek approval through the normal channels. Any such experimental course must have the approval of the departmental faculty proposing the course and the dean of the college concerned. These courses will be listed in the schedule of courses under Experimental Courses.

11. In recent years faculty and students alike have expressed the opinion that interdisciplinary courses are needed in today's world to make more relevant and more exciting the tremendous amount of knowledge that the modern university deals with. The present structure of the University of Rhode Island makes it difficult for faculty members from different departments to plan and coordinate knowledge from the various disciplines. The committee recommends that a simple method of allowing departments to cooperate on interdisciplinary experimental courses be set up at once.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Flexibility in Higher Education moves that the Faculty Senate approve the establishment of experimental interdisciplinary courses agreed upon by the faculty of any two or more departments within the University. These courses will be offered no more than twice in a two-year period before being subjected to the standard curricular process. These courses must have the approval of the Dean of the college when only one college is involved and in addition of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, if more than one college is involved. Courses offered by two or more departments will be announced by the departments concerned and listed in the schedules of classes under Experimental Interdisciplinary Courses.

The committee presents these two recommendations in the hope that the Senate will consider them favorably. We plan to work diligently, and when our deliberations lead us to conclusions, we will present those conclusions to the Senate.

Dr. George J. Dillavou, Chairman
Miss Anne Applebaum
Mr. Steve Winchell
Mr. Martin Milner
Dr. James Findlay, Jr.
Dr. Leon Bouvier
Dr. Elizabeth Crandall
Dr. Paul Jarman
Mrs. Roberta Tutt