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## Proposal for a Revised University-Wide General Education Program

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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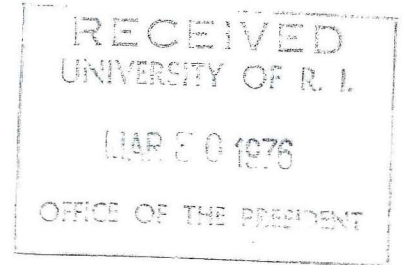
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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE  
BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate



TO: President Frank Newman  
FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Proposal for a Revised University-Wide General Education Program

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 March 25, 1976 (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 April 15, 1976 (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 Regents for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Regents, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

March 26, 1976  
(date)

W. Donald Rankin  
W. Donald Rankin  
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

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ENDORSEMENT 1.

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

RECEIVED

APR 20 1976

UNIV. 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.

April 23, 1976  
(date)

Frank Newman  
President

(OVER)

ALTERNATE ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Board of Regents

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded.
2. Approved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

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ENDORSEMENT 2.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

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

1. Forwarded.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(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 Regents.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE

Proposal for a Revised University-Wide General Education Program

A. General Goals and Rationale

With this proposal, the committee intends to fulfill its primary objective of improving the general education requirements in ways which will best meet the needs of all undergraduate students and faculty. The values which guided the committee's work are presented below.

We believe that there is intrinsic educational merit for a student in learning how to make responsible decisions, and that such learning is fostered by having a wide latitude of choice both within and across disciplines. The increased range of choice offered by the proposed General Education Program should encourage students to explore and experiment. In the long run, the result of this freer choice will be a path to general education which is not narrowly prescribed for all but rather reflects the needs of individual students. In other words, courses which provide specific competencies for some students may well be of general educational value for others. By broadening the range of choice open to students the committee hopes to challenge them to take more responsibility for their decisions as well as to increase the flexibility of the requirements to better meet individual needs.

The current proposal reflects an effort to cope with the variety of definitions of general education which now exist. All disciplines are deemed potentially valuable contributors to a student's general education, and no narrow limits are placed on the definition of such an education. The committee's intention is to allow the scope and complexity of knowledge offered by the University to be reflected in the general education of the students. In essence what is being urged is general education through distribution, as a complement to the depth achieved within areas of concentration.

The need for a return to a truly university-wide set of general education requirements has been a primary concern of this committee. The current variations in requirements among the colleges often create hardships for students who wish to move from a curriculum in one college to a curriculum in another. The present proposal attempts to offer a simple, flexible program within which every department and college can comfortably function.

B. Recommendations

1. Recommendation #1 (approved by the Faculty Senate on March 6, 1975)

There shall be 5 General Education divisions:

- A - Humanities
- B - Natural Sciences
- C - Social Sciences
- D - Human Communications
- E - Applied Sciences

- a. The first three divisions (A, B, and C) shall include essentially the same subject matter that is included in these divisions at the present time.
- b. Division D shall be expanded to be a broad human communications division and would include certain courses, concerned with written and oral communications and related communication skills and theory, drawn from areas such as English, Speech, Journalism, and Foreign Languages.
- c. Division E is intended to provide diversity by adding courses in Applied Sciences, such as those typically (but not exclusively) offered by the Professional Colleges.

2. Recommendation #2 (approved by the Faculty Senate on May 1, 1975)

Each student in every curriculum and in every college shall distribute 45 credits among the divisions in the following way:

A minimum of 9 credits in each of the divisions, A, B, and C and a minimum of 6 in division D. The remaining credits may be distributed in any way among the five divisions.

Note: The Faculty Senate approved an amendment to recommendation #2 calling for the deletion of section 8.41.11 from the University Manual when recommendation #2 goes into effect.

8.41.11 if necessary to eliminate academic loads above degree requirements, students enrolled in the advanced ROTC Program may apply to the appropriate academic dean for permission to substitute a maximum of six hours of advanced ROTC credit for the same number of credits A, B, or C of the divisional requirements. Only three credits may be substituted in any one division.

3. Recommendation #3 (approved by the Faculty Senate on February 12, 1976)

- a. Courses which are part of a student's area of specialization may not be used for general education credit by that student. Such courses are defined as follows:

for the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Resource Development--the concentration and those courses within the department most closely associated with

for the Colleges of Business and Engineering--courses at the 300 level and above taught within the college which are required courses or professional electives;

for the College of Home Economics--Home Economics courses in Group III as required by the student's department;

for the College of Nursing--Major Courses taught within the college;

for the College of Pharmacy--required professional courses taught within the college.

- b. Courses which are part of a second area of specialization within the same degree program (in accordance with provisions of the University Manual) may be used to satisfy the general education requirements.

4. Recommendation #4 (approved by the Faculty Senate on October 9, 1975)

Each department shall review the content of its undergraduate course offerings (numbered under 500) and recommend to the University College and General Education Committee the appropriate General Education division designation (A, B, C, D, or E) for every course suitable for General Education. If a course is judged not suitable for General Education the department should designate the course (N).

- a. No department needs to assign all of its course offerings to the same division.
- b. While the Committee asks that each department recommend the division to which each of its courses should be assigned, the Committee may make such changes as it deems advisable before presenting its final recommendation to the Senate for confirmation. If the Committee disagrees with the recommendation made by the department, it shall meet with representatives of the department for consultation before making a recommendation to the Senate. When no agreement is reached, the opinion of the department shall be included as an informational item of the report.

The Committee's recommendations, including dissenting department opinions, shall be made available to the University Community at least 30 days prior to Faculty Senate consideration.

5. Recommendation #5 (approved by the Faculty Senate on October 9, 1975)

Following approval by this Committee and the Faculty Senate the appropriate letter designations will appear with the course numbers in the catalogue and on the class schedules used for registration and pre-registration purposes, as soon as it is feasible.

6. Recommendation #6 (approved by the Faculty Senate on March 11, 1976)

General Education requirements are established by the University and cannot be modified by individual colleges and departments. However, colleges and departments establish their own specific degree requirements which may include specification of courses or distribution of courses that the student may also be applying towards general education requirements. No department or college shall specify, in either general education requirements or in departmental or program requirements, specific courses or general areas from which courses may be selected for more than 39 of the 45 credits fulfilling general education requirements.

7. Recommendation #7 (approved by the Faculty Senate on March 11, 1976 and amended by the Faculty Senate on March 25, 1976)

- a. Within 30 days of approval of these recommendations by the President, each department shall comply with recommendation 4.
- b. Within 60 days of approval of the recommendations by the President, the University College and General Education Committee shall submit to the Senate its recommendations for the placement of courses within the divisions, along with the entire General Education Proposal, for final Senate approval.

8. Recommendation #8 (approved by the Faculty Senate on March 11, 1976)

This General Education Program shall become effective at the beginning of the 1977-78 academic year.