

5-4-1978

Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee Report on CUE Recommendations

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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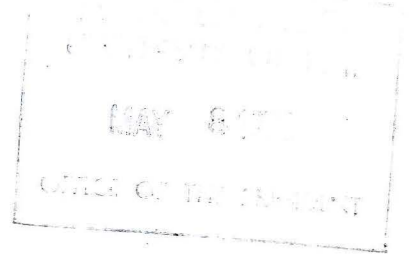
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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE
BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate




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

1. The attached BILL, titled Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee Report on CUE Recommendations

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 4, 1978 (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 May 25, 1978 (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.

May 5, 1978
(date)


Robert M. Gutchen
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT

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


RECEIVED

MAY 11 1978

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/is necessary.

5/9/78
(date)


President

(OVER)

ALTERNATE ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Board of Regents

FROM: The University President

- 1. Forwarded.
- 2. Approved.

(date)

President

ENDORSEMENT 2.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

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

- 1. Forwarded.

(date)

(Office)

ENDORSEMENT 3.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: The University President

- 1. Forwarded from the Chairman of the Board of Regents.

(date)

President

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

HONORS PROGRAM AND VISITING SCHOLARS COMMITTEE

REPORT ON CUE RECOMMENDATIONS

PART A

The Commission on Undergraduate Education made the following recommendation in their report of June 1977:

5. That the Honors Program be expanded so as to provide a greater variety of scholarly opportunities for able students and that students registered in University College be eligible to participate in some of these opportunities.

The Honors Committee agrees with this recommendation in its broadest implications. In the main, the only specific scholarly opportunities available at present for above average students, outside the regular classroom experience, are Independent Study courses offered by most departments at the upper-class level and taught as an over-load by the faculty; and the Honors Colloquium whose registration is about 100 students. To initiate implementation of this recommendation the committee is bringing these motions to the Faculty Senate:

That the Faculty Senate endorse the concept of establishing

1. ~~That the University establish~~ an Honors Center with the following goals and objectives.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE HONORS CENTER

1. To enable the superior students to realize ~~his~~ *their* intellectual potential,
2. To deepen, broaden and enrich his learning beyond the scope of ordinary academic curriculums,
3. To stimulate intellectual maturity through faculty-student interaction,
4. To encourage the pursuit of excellence by Honors students,
5. To enrich the academic experience of all students,
6. To enrich the academic experience of the faculty through interaction with Honors students and Honors programs,
7. To encourage superior students to enroll at the University and to maintain their continued interest,

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #31 - April 19, 1978

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Faculty Senate Office, Chairperson Gutchen presiding. All members were present except Senator Donnelly who was excused.
2. The Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting #30, April 12, 1978 were approved.
3. The Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting #14, April 27, 1978 was reviewed and its final form approved.
4. The Executive Committee met with Professor Desfosses, Chairperson of the ad hoc Administrator Evaluation Coordinating Committee, from 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. After discussion the following procedure was agreed upon:
 - a. Deans will be the only administrators to be evaluated this spring;
 - b. The Evaluation will be done by the committee during the first week in May (The instrument will be distributed to all faculty by mail through the Senate Office);
 - c. The results of his/her evaluation will be forwarded only to each Dean, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and to the President;
 - d. Professor Desfosses will inform the Senate of this Spring's evaluation at the April 27 meeting of the Faculty Senate under item 3, A, Announcements;
 - e. Vice Chairperson Christner will move approval of the following recommendation of the Executive Committee under item 3, C, 4):

That the Ad Hoc Administrator Evaluation Coordinating Committee continue during the 1978-79 academic year.

5. Copies of an April 17 letter from Chairperson Gutchen to Dean Lott, apologizing for not sending to her a copy of his letter to Vice President Ferrante requesting a review of University College, was distributed.
6. The Executive Committee reviewed a General Studies Faculty Proposal which was under consideration by the C.A.C. The Committee asked Ms. Grubman to suggest some editorial changes to the C.A.C.
7. Material on D.U.E. non credit courses was distributed for review prior to the May 3 meeting with Vice President Ferrante, and Deans Byrne and Farnum.
8. The Executive Committee discussed Senate Action #77-78--26 Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Large Classes. Ms. Grubman was asked to contact potential members for the committee and to report back to the Executive Committee on April 26.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Black Grubman

8. To provide challenging opportunities for students receiving advanced placement from the admissions office,
 9. To enhance the public image of the University as an academic institution,
 10. To identify students with high ability and motivation and,
 11. To provide counseling for Honors students and potential Honors students;
- II. That the Vice President for Academic Affairs be requested to appoint a released-time faculty member to develop specific proposals for expansion of the Honors Program to include freshmen and sophomore students and to develop other proposals to meet the goals and objectives of the Honors Center. The faculty member will report to the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee which will in turn present proposals to the Faculty Senate no later than April 1, 1979.

RATIONALE FOR AN HONORS CENTER

First and foremost the Honors Center should be both an intellectual and physical center which serves to promote the goal of enabling superior students to realize their intellectual potential. This Center would include the present Honors Program which consists of the Honors Colloquium and Independent Study components. However, it should also offer alternative programs for students in addition to these programs. These new offerings can include University efforts, cooperative efforts with other Universities and programs sponsored by the National Collegiate Honors Council, such as a semester of study at the United Nations.

A second function of an Honors Center would be as a place for faculty to meet informally or in seminar to share expertise in dealing with the education of above-average students. Such information as has already been elicited from the December Honors Committee Questionnaire will be kept on file for faculty use. A list of faculty members who are available to supervise projects or directed studies of Honors students, either registered in Honors Colloquium or recommended by individual faculty members, will be kept on file at the center. Such a list might be the nucleus of an Honors Faculty which would serve as a special resource group in all matters dealing with above-average students at all levels.

It can be assumed that CUE's recommendation for "a greater variety of scholarly opportunities" implies that opportunities be available to all above-average students in all classes regardless of grade-point average or established academic standing, the criteria for admission to Honors Colloquium. In this case a third function of the proposed Honors Center would be to have on file models of classroom techniques, projects, and programs to be available to the faculty in all curricula as resource material for classroom practices that would be stimulating to the above-average or potentially above-average students.

As a fourth function the Honors Center can develop procedures for:

1. Identifying in-coming above-average students through consultation with the Admissions Office and to keep on file at the Center's administrative office all support data;
2. Identifying above-average University College students through consultation with University College Administration and to keep such data on file;
3. Identifying upper-class above-average students through consultation with department chairmen and to keep such data on file.

These files will be available for faculty consultation, as student profiles for graduation Honors reports; to provide material for students' future job references; as statistical information for potential studies on the quality of student-clientele.

A fifth function of the Honors Center would be to provide a permanent location for the records of the materials of the Honors Colloquium and Visiting Scholars Committee. Since the functions of this committee entail the establishment of efficient business as well as cultural practices, without the minimum tools of a records-repository and clerical assistance, the efficiency of this program is limited. Long-term insurance of well documented programs is needed.

A sixth function would be the coordination of awards, honors, scholarships, and programs for Honors students or potential Honors students. These would include both on and off campus initiated activities. Communication of these offerings to the Honors students would be an important role of the Center.

RATIONALE FOR A RELEASED TIME FACULTY

A concentrated effort is needed to develop specific program recommendations for the Center. Through a University appointment, a qualified and interested person should be given released time, financial support, and specific quarters to:

- I. Develop a specific university-wide Honors plan that will affect the entire undergraduate program, to be brought forward for approval to the Senate and for implementation by the faculty and the Administration.
- II. Research and compile information on the wide variety of effective techniques and facilities many other universities are using in what appears to be a growing national emphasis on the Honors concept.
- III. Develop and organize data on above-average students at this university, untapped resources and interests of faculty and students.

RATIONALE FOR PHYSICAL SPACE

The Honors program attempts to provide an opportunity for especially able students to improve their educational growth. The program has two facets. One provides depth and involves a student in an individually supervised project usually in a specialized subject area. The other provides breadth through the student's participation in the Honors Colloquium.

The Honors Colloquium brings distinguished lecturers to the campus on a weekly basis. Students attend the formal presentation and a related discussion group each week and at times may attend informal sessions held at the speakers' convenience. Thus an important need for this program is to provide space for the students to informally meet with discussion leaders and with the speakers. Further interchange of ideas related to these programs will be enhanced if room is available for University faculty and honors students to meet on an informal basis to discuss the ideas presented at the colloquium. The space would also be useful to provide a central location for displaying and making available to students the many journal articles, books, and other publications related to the program as well as a tape library of previous lectures they would like to review.

A secondary reason for providing permanent space involves the logistics of this type of program. The administrative and logistical effort required by those involved is exceptionally burdensome. Arrangements for speakers, visual aids, payments and other administrative problems require now a part time secretary as well as the involvement of the faculty. In addition the 100 students in the program have questions about the colloquia, the projects, and the honors program itself. Eligible students not enrolled in the program have many questions about the program before they are admitted. There is also a severe administrative burden on the committee chairman involving certification of honors students for graduation.

At present students, visitors and faculty deal with the problems in an ad hoc fashion. It seems unfair to everyone involved to continue in this fashion. Creative effort is being limited for both the students and faculty involved in the program.

It has been obvious to the Commission on Undergraduate Education that the recognition of achievement of honors students has been neglected on this campus. In fact they have made a number of recommendations that address this problem calling for higher visibility for the Honors Program. Space would help improve this neglected feature of the honors program.

The Commission also recommended an expansion and strengthening of the program. Both of these goals would require a central home for the Honors Program.

It is felt by many faculty that the Honors Program has been neglected on our campus. At other universities Honors Programs have been allocated space. Indeed at a number of state universities a separate building houses the Honors Program. Thus we are not asking for a radical departure from accepted practice but recognition of honors here at the University of Rhode Island.

The idea of a permanent home is not frivolous but is an essential element of a strong and viable program. It will provide the continuity that is needed for this type of program. The present method of utilizing space is an impediment to maintaining a strong program on this campus.

PART B
RECOMMENDATIONS

The Honors Committee places the following motions before the Faculty Senate for consideration:

be requested to I. That the Vice President for Development and University Relations publicize in a newsletter at least twice a year the availability of his office to provide advice and coordination to the campus community in publicizing undergraduate education.

Student achievement in II. That the Senate request the President to implement the following recommendations:

a. That the Undergraduate Student Excellence Awards program be broadened and become permanent, and that all undergraduate programs should develop criteria and participate in the program *by April 1, 1979*.

b. That there should be a student speaker at commencement and that the selection be the responsibility of the Commencement and Ceremonial Committee. *An official selection process be established by Spring Semester, 1979, and widely publicized.*

c. That the Departments be encouraged to increase their activity in publicizing student achievement in undergraduate education.

RATIONALE

The Commission on Undergraduate Education made the following recommendations in their report of June 1977:

PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT

1. That the recognition of undergraduate student excellence in the form of annual departmental awards be permanently institutionalized.
2. That those departments which have not yet established such a recognition program do so by Spring Semester, 1978.
3. That the Commencement Committee's decision to reinstate a student speaker at commencement be permanently institutionalized and that an official selection process be established by Spring Semester, 1978, and widely publicized.
4. That the Vice President for Development and University Relations establish as a major priority a publicity focus on undergraduate education.

The Honors Committee agrees with the philosophy of the undergraduate student excellence awards and feels that the awarding system should be broadened and be institutionalized in an Honors center. The criteria for the excellence awards should be determined at the Department level and all Departments should participate. Special scholarship awards to prospective Honors students should also be considered. Having a student speaker at commencement should be continued and the selection process should be institutionalized. The Committee recognizes the many advantages of placing the responsibility for the selection of a speaker in the Commencement and Ceremonial Committee.

The Committee thinks that the role of the Vice President for Development and University Relations should remain as a source for advice and coordination of publicity on undergraduate education. The initiation and major responsibility should stay decentralized in the Department, Agency or Center in which the undergraduates are involved. The availability of advice and coordination in the Vice President's office should be communicated to the campus community by a newsletter published at least twice a year. The establishment of an Honors Center would help provide public recognition of student achievement.

Harold N. Knickle, Committee Chairman
Chemical Engineering

Brenda P. Bissell, Nursing
Gerald H. Krausse, Geography
Michael W. Purdy, Speech Communication
Lorraine D. Ryan, English
John C. Sainsbury, Fisheries & Marine
Technology
Arthur Stein, Political Science
Willard P. Whitlock, W. Alton Jones
Marilyn McCory, Graduate Student

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE & GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TO: Faculty Senate
Executive Committee

FROM: Kenneth H. Rogers
Chairman, UCGEC

RE: Recommended legislation

The University College and General Education Committee hereby recommends to the Senate the following:

MOVED: That the Admissions Requirements to the College of Human Science and Services be entered into the University Catalogue as follows:

- 4 Units in English
- 2 Units in Algebra and/or Plane Geometry
- 1 Unit in Natural or Physical Science
- 3 Units in History, Social Sciences or Foreign Languages
- 6 Units Additional

RATIONALE: the faculty of the College of Human Science & Services approved the proposed admissions requirements on 15 March 1978. The UCGEC has found them very much in line with the admissions requirements for the other colleges of the University (see attached chart, provided by the New College Coordinator).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

	CURRENT ABS	CURRENT H.E.	PROPOSED CHS&S
ENGLISH	4	4	4
ALGEBRA/PLANE GEOMETRY	2	2	2
NATURAL OR PHYSICAL SCIENCE	1	1	1
HISTORY OR SOCIAL SCIENCE	1	1	1
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	2*	2	3
ADDITIONAL	6	6	6

* PHYSICAL EDUCATION MAY SUBSTITUTE OTHER
COLLEGE PREP STUDIES FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE