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## The Beacon (05/22/1963)

University of Rhode Island

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# Students Protest Shortened Exam Period

The new University calendar voted in by the Faculty Senate has created a good deal of discussion on campus, and has drawn both endorsements and grumbling from the student body.

The Student Senate at its meeting Monday night voted to officially protest action by the Faculty Senate which pared the exam period by four days. The Student Senators recommended that the faculty group reconsider its decision.

Most of the students interviewed at random expressed dismay over the six-day final exam period and said that it will present many difficulties and unnecessary pressure on students and faculty alike, unless exams can be arranged so that they will be evenly spaced.

The common argument was

that with exams bunched together, one reading day was not sufficient to organize a semester's work, no matter how much preparation is done ahead of time.

One freshman voiced the reasoning of most students objecting to the cropped exam period. "Let's face it," she said, "most students cram, and the possibility of having four exams on one day isn't very appealing."

The objection that it "won't be fair to the students" reflects the argument of many students. Judy Mulligan, a junior, said the probability of eight hours of exams on one day doesn't give any student the proper time to study. Several students wanted a reading week or its equivalent.

One sophomore expressed approval of the schedule and said that it makes the school year

more compact and gets exams over in a shorter period of time. Another student, a junior, simply said, "I like it."

A small minority of students queried represent the ever-present apathetic faction, stating that they either didn't have any feeling one way or the other about the change or that they hadn't given it any thought.

A second question brought up by the calendar change is that of coming back to school two weeks later in the fall. Most students favored a longer summer vacation and were only bothered by the fact that many scheduled activities for next semester conflict with vacations and exams. The early Homecoming, which is scheduled for the second weekend of the Fall semester, was favored by no one interviewed.

One freshman reflected the view of many, that we should get out earlier and go in possibly one week earlier. "A vacation means a lot more heading into it than ending it," she said.

Sioux Wexler, a junior, said "I think it is a very reasonable idea mainly since it offers better job opportunities for those students hoping to finance their way through college."

Another student said the semester break is more important than extending a two-month vacation. By the end of the summer most students are bored and ready to get back to school, he said.

Many juniors have expressed the wish that they could graduate sooner in the year, and have offered the extension of summer vacation by only one week as a possible solution.

The majority of students did not object to cutting one-day holidays, including Columbus Day and Washington's Birthday. One junior expressed the general feeling of students that these holidays were "inconvenient and often wasted." Another student, however, held to the widely supported opinion that "more vacations through the semester are good for morale."

One objection raised against the late date at which Christmas Vacation begins is that it doesn't give students time who count on that vacation to earn extra spending money by working.

Students all expressed the opinion that it would be preferable if the time off could be distributed better, but without such a short Easter Vacation to break up the long second semester.

## THE BEACON

University of Rhode Island

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1963

VOL. LVIII NO. 29

## \$91,200 Budget Gets Senators' Approval

The Student Senate closed out the spring semester Monday night by passing \$91,200 budget submitted by the tax committee for the 1963-64 academic year.

With little questioning, the grants to the band, Grist, Senate and Beacon were passed.

There was lengthy discussion on the Debate Council. The Council has a fixed minimum of \$2,000 per semester. They requested an additional \$1,500, of which only \$1,000 was granted.

Paul Hayden, president of the Debate Council, said that requests

were based on \$6 per person per day for food on Debate tours, traveling expenses, living expenses and registration fees.

In addition he said that both the varsity and novice teams are supported. He gave the Senate the choice of fewer debates since they could not be maintained at reduced expenditures.

Nada Chandler, of the tax committee, said that not all conferences were figured on the \$6 outlay.

James Mooney, a senator, retorted that more experience is needed to build a better team to represent the University. He pointed out that in many cases the hotels were either too expensive or too far away from the debate site.

Miss Chandler informed the Senate that in the past the Debate Council has been guilty of over-expending their allotment. She also said the committee has acted with past complaints by President Horn on excessive debate tour spending.

The committee's action was upheld by the Senate.

Allocations for the Inter-religious Council, University Theatre, University Orchestra, University Chorus, Paradigm, Radio Club, All Nations Club, Blue Key, Sachems, WRIU, Yacht Club, Laurels, Arts Council, and Athletic Council were all accepted with no argument.

There was some debate over SDA which requested and was granted \$800.

Al Szymanski, president of the organization, said that SDA had produced Challenge, Outlook, and sent representatives to various conferences during the past semester on about half of the new request.

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### Editorial

## An Unwise Decision

The Faculty Senate, in shortening URI's final exam schedule, was obviously unmindful of student welfare. By eliminating valuable study time the Senate will not only make preparation unnecessarily difficult, but will reduce the effectiveness of final exams.

We feel that a six-day final examination period is too short a time for adequate preparation on the part of the students, especially since URI allows only a 24-hour reading period.

The Senate, without student consultation, has arbitrarily decided to set a 45-day semester. We feel that a 42-day semester, with the extra three days being allotted to examinations, would be of far greater value to the students.

Many times when the end of a semester nears, instructors tend to slow up and become repetitious. These last few days, which mean little as far as course value goes, could easily be made a part of the final exam period.

We urge that the Faculty Senate reconsider an unwise decision, and formulate a schedule more adequately tailored to the needs of the students, who are after all, the reason for the existence of the University.

## Chafee Takes Stand Against Campus Probe

Governor John Chafee said last week that he supports President Horn's stand on having no objection to legislators investigating specific complaints about URI, but said that it is an entirely different thing to say that something in "general" is wrong here.

He said he also is against investigating any campus groups or professors who may have unpopular ideas, and added that these investigations might prove a handicap to the University in attracting professors. Professors don't like to come to a place where every act is challenged or investigated, he said, or where their continued association with the university might rest on their subscribing to certain ideas.

Mr. Chafee spoke to URI journalism students at a student press conference following his regular press

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## Homecoming Plans Are Set

Homecoming events this year will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5, five days after registration for

the Fall semester, according to the Blue Key Society.

There will be competition among fraternities and men's dormitories again this year for first and second-place trophies for the Homecoming Lawn Displays.

The tentative time schedule for the weekend is as follows:

Saturday—10 a. m. Judging of Fraternity Lawn displays.

11 a. m. — Chowder tent at Keane for alumni.

1 p. m.—Sorority float parade at Meade Field and crowning of Homecoming Queen (before game).

2 p. m.—Football game—URI vs. New Hampshire.

5 p. m.—Open House at sororities and fraternities.

5:30 p. m.—Dinner served at Butterfield.

8 p. m.—Providence Alumni Club Dance at Hyllo Casino, Narragansett.

Men Commuters' Dance at Browning Hall.

Sunday—3 p. m. Homecoming concert.

Homecoming chairman is Gordon Lawrence of Phi Kappa Theta. Others on the committee are: Bruce Bumpus, Sigma Chi, in charge of Lawn Displays; Pat Duffy, Sigma Kappa, and Gail Robbins, Alpha Delta Pi, in charge of Sorority Floats; Dick Romanelli, Sigma Nu, in charge of queens, and Marshall McClean, Sigma Chi, in charge of the concert.

## Campus Honor Societies Tap New Members

Twelve URI juniors were tapped as members of Sachems, senior honor society, and eight undergraduates were announced as members of the Blue Key Society, honorary hospitality organization, at the Honors Convocation last Thursday in Edwards Hall.

New members of Sachems are Elaine M. Bourck, Donald Hall, Keley Volner, Paul Zaroogian, Nancy H. McDowell, Donna J. Moses, Gerald E. McDowell, Emma H. Packer, Richard A. Romanelli, Lorel M. Oxley, Martha J. Gencarelli and Stephan A. Rubin.

New members of Blue Key are David Beebe, Lawrence Girouard, Peter Bingham, Nancy Cramer, Joyce Zinno, Linda Lintop, William Sherman, and Stephen Bronstein.

John Gonsalves was elected president of the Blue Key Society it was announced. Other officers elected are Richard Romanelli, vice-president; Marshall McClean, treasurer, and Gail Robbins, secretary.

Some of the plans of Blue Key for next year include the New Student Week Program, Club '67, Homecoming, and the Annual Blue Key Charity Bazaar.

### Classical Films

#### Subject Of Series

A classical film series consisting of movies that emphasize the historical, artistic and experimental aspects of the world's cinema will be presented next year on campus.

The program was initiated by a committee of faculty members and will be sponsored by the Fine Arts Council and the Graduate Student Association.

Some of the films that will be presented are *The Mother and Law*, a study of slum life, *A Short History of Animation*, *All Quiet On The Western Front*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and *The Blood of a Poet*, an experimental art film.

There will be five programs each year and tickets can be purchased for one semester at \$2.50 or for the entire year at \$5. They will be available beginning May 20.

The showings will be scheduled on Thursday nights in Independent Auditorium or Edwards Auditorium if the demand is great.



# Faculty And Deans Interviewed

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think it would be of any significance whether the added time was at the beginning of the vacation or the end.

Dr. Robert W. Harrison, recently elected chairman of the Faculty Senate, said the principal reason for the extension was to "get rid of a lot of wasted time between semesters" by starting classes later in the fall.

Another professor, who expressed dismay for the whole calendar change, said he understood classes were starting two weeks later also to allow members of some departments to attend meetings of their national organizations.

Dr. Harrison said the one-day holidays here and there weren't very helpful as vacations and disturbed the sequence of courses.

One problem with the plan, however, is "squeezing at examination time," he said. He added that we would have to try it this way and see if it works out.

Dean Quinn said that if it is demonstrated that a substantial number of students would be compelled to take three or more exams on one day, he would call the schedule "pretty tight." But, he continued that he did not think three exams on one day would be too much where most students have six or seven exams spread over a span of six days.

A University ruling still exists stating that a final exam is required in all courses not otherwise specified, Dr. Harrison said. "We may have to change it next year, but we have to wait and see," he said.

Dean Quinn said the possibility of seniors becoming exempt from exams was "entirely rumor." He said he was sure he would have heard of any program to excuse seniors from exams.

Seven other faculty members

who were reached gave their views on several points of the new calendar.

Dr. M. E. Batroukha, assistant professor of journalism, said he thinks the change is better for two reasons. "One, it gives students and faculty longer summers for work or research, and two, because the six-day exam period will force students to read, hopefully, during the semester because exams will be close together."

He said he is against the whole reading day idea, "because it implies that this is the only day students read anything."

Dr. Agnes Doody, assistant professor of speech and dramatic arts said: "I believe the six-day examination period is a dangerous situation which puts the student under the whim of the professor."

"After all, in such a short period of time it is very easy for the student to have two exams scheduled at the same hour. Which exam is the student to take? What can the other professor do?"

"It is up to the students to let it be known that the Faculty Senate and the Administration that they oppose such a short exam period. If they are apathetic, they deserve the consequences of the faculty senate's decision," she said.

Dr. Nancy A. Potter, professor of English, said one effect of the short exam period is that exams would have to be given at the convenience of the students, and in courses with over about 35 students, the evening hours would have to be used for exams.

A longer reading period is essential according to Dr. Potter, who would be in favor of a week. It would be valuable for both students and faculty and is a very mature policy, she said.

Dr. Potter said that if programs

were well-progressed by the time a student was a senior he would not have any large survey courses but only small group classes, which would eliminate the need for final exams since his professor would know his work well enough.

Dr. James D. Brasch of the English department and Dr. Thomas E. Moriarity, chairman of the education department, both felt that an extended exam period would encourage cramming. Dr. Brasch said that Reading Day should be completely eliminated, and also said that if the class is small where the professor knows the students there is no need for a final.

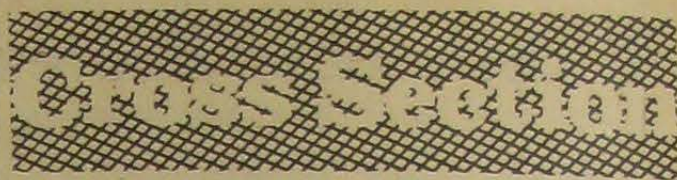
Dr. William D. Metz, chairman of the history department, said that he is "unhappy" about the new calendar, and mentioned specifically that he would prefer longer exam periods both from the standpoint of undergraduates and faculty, who have to arrange for senior exams. He added that he would never deprive a student of the chance to take a final.

"Despite the fact that I am critical of parts of it, I guess we can make it work, as any calendar can work," he said.

Dean Roman J. Zorn of the College of Arts and Sciences said that the new calendar posed no serious problem. "The revisions are all right. If the professors can do it, the students can," he said, referring to the six-day exam period.

When the tidal wave of students comes and the University must accommodate them, the accelerated schedule will probably change to begin right after Labor Day and let out earlier to accommodate this overflow, he said.

Dr. Zorn said that later there will be a need to synchronize the calendars of all the New England state universities.



JUDIE EWING—"I feel that the idea of a six-day exam schedule is absurd. Obviously, there is inadequate time for study, since students are preparing for daily class assignments right up to finals, not to mention the term papers, compelling students to cram, thus defeating the purpose of finals. Most evidently it will lessen the importance of finals, because students will have inadequate time to prepare for them. This is conducive to a hap-hazard attitude toward exams. Ten class days for finals is much more adequate."

Do you approve of the Faculty Senate's changes in the school calendar, effective next year, which will shorten the final examination period to six days?



STEVE BRONSTEIN—"I sincerely believe that a final exam period of six days will place the student at a great disadvantage and under extraordinary pressure. The University stresses high academic standards. With a shortened final exam period and only one reading day, the student may not achieve as efficient grades as those which he might ordinarily receive. The only possible way in which the six-day exam period could be successful would be to have a reading week. Otherwise, the exam period should be at least ten days."



SANDI-LEE MOLAK — "Personally, I do not feel that a six-day examination period would give students time to review adequately the work of an entire semester. Exam time exerts many pressures upon students and faculty as it is, and I feel that the proposed six-day exam period would only prove detrimental to both students and faculty."

# Senate Approves Budget

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However, he told the Senate that expanded programs have increased the need for funds. During the next semester there will be coffee hour series on the race issue, faculty debates, a Liberal-Conservative debate on a prominent question, seminars with other campus organizations, and Outlook, he said.

Paul Hanson questioned the necessity of trips and was told that they were instrumental in the circulation of ideas among other students and for Outlook.

Alberta Cataldi pointed out that President Horn was especially interested in students going to other campuses to represent URI in conferences. Miss Chandler mentioned Dr. Horn's praise of the Challenge Speaker series.

The Senate upheld the tax committee's decision.

Carolyn Miller, vice-president of the Senate and chairman of the tax

committee, said in regard to the allocations that the organizations received that "It must be stated emphatically that each organization should work within the budget they have received, based on the need they originally requested for that organization. To plan on overspending and assume on receiving an emergency grant should not be a policy."

Another action taken by the Senate was to pass an amendment to the constitution. It allows officers to be frozen in office and their replacements to be elected from their respective group desiring general elections.

In other Senate business, Barbara Mugden of the Academic Affairs committee said that a survey was being taken among the parents of women students requesting if they wished their judgments to be a factor in the granting of women's rights.

# Chafee

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conference in the state house Wednesday.

The Governor also approved the idea of the University asking for bond issues when necessary to finance the needs of the growing campus, but he pointed out that "naturally the buildings should be taken care of and last for many years."

Asked about the large number of URI graduates accepting out-of-state jobs, the Governor said that the university itself should take more initiative in finding job opportunities for the students, but continued that he felt it was his job to develop a healthy job climate in the state.

# Faculty Posts Announced

Seven faculty appointments for the new academic year were announced last week at URI.

Named associate professors were Dr. Stanley I. Berger, psychology, chairman of the department, and Dr. Harold W. Fisher, biophysics.

Named assistant professors are Said M. Al-Khozale, and Dr. J. Ramakanth, mathematics; Reemt R. Baumann, education; James T. Corless, oceanography; and Howard J. Foster Jr., public administration and planning.

Additional regular URI faculty members appointed for the six-week session starting July 1 are Robert A. Barron, Daniel Bean, William Gebhart, David Lapp, Solomon Levine, Edward J. Mjeski, Ross E. McDermott, Harold Sternbach and Harry Y. Tehajeyon.

Dr. Leonard H. Worthen was promoted from assistant to associate professor of pharmacology, it was announced. Dr. Jan R. Ashton, dean of the new Graduate Library School, was designated professor of library science, and Ernest A. Calverley, associate professor of physical education for men and head coach of basketball, was designated assistant director of athletics.



ANDY LOUGHLIN—"The shorter examination period precludes any possibility of the student making a proper review of all his courses in their entirety. This defeats one of the basic purposes of a final examination, that is to relate and unify the course's subject matter."



KELCY VOLNER—"Final exams, as they are given now, are neither a true indication of one's achievement or capabilities in a given subject. Reducing the exam period to a mere six days will further distort the picture of the student's ability and will be detrimental not only to the individual students but to the college as a whole. I also feel it is a poor reflection upon those responsible for making the decision with no regard for the sentiments of the students."

# THE BEACON Classified Ads

FOR SALE—'59 Chevrolet Impala convert. Red with black top, good condition. Fully powered, V-8 auto. Many extras. \$1,400. Contact Joe Russillo, WI 2-4607.

FOR SALE—'54 Chevrolet 210 sdn. 4-dr., hydro., brown & white, radio & heater, extra tires, good engine. Must sell soon. Best offer. It can be seen at TKE parking lot. Contact Kemal Samer, Box 276, Kingston, or at TKE.

WANTED—A live-in babysitter for doctor's family in Cowesett section of Warwick for summer. Two nights and 1 1/2 days a week. Starting salary \$20 per week plus room and board. Write or call Mrs. John E. Murphy, 227 Highland Ave., Warwick, R. I.—TU 4-4367.

FOR SALE—'55 RAMBLER, rare model, 2-dr. hardtop, continental tire, auto. trans., heater, \$300. Good condition. Peter Stelljes, 1 Browning.

FOR SALE—'53 FORD, 2-dr., good running condition. \$75 or best offer. Matt Chrostowski, SAE or call 828-1716 after 6 p.m.

FOR SALE—Renault 1961. One owner, 16,000 miles, good condition, priced to sell. Call ST 3-4722.

FOR SALE—Porsche, 1959 Norna I Coupe, silver with red interior. Excellent condition. Radio, good tires, extras, must sell. Best offer. Call ST 3-4722 or car may be seen at 52 North Road, Peace Dale. Ray B. Owen Jr.

FOR SALE—1961 Outboard Motor Johnson 18 hp. like new, \$275. Call ST 3-6007 after 5.