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Final Report of the Presidential Committee on the Balance Between Intercollegiate and Intramural Athletic Programs

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE

BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY OF R. I.
MAR 19 1973
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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

1. The Attached BILL, titled Final Report of the Presidential Committee
on the Balance Between Intercollegiate and Intramural Athletic Programs

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 73-3-8
(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 73-3-29 (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 16, 1973
(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

1. Returned.

2. Approved ✓ Disapproved _____

3. (If approved) In my opinion, transmittal to the Board of Regents is not necessary.

3/20/73
(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.

(date)

_____/s/
President

ENDORSEMENT 2.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

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

1. Forwarded.

(date)

_____/s/

(Office)

ENDORSEMENT 3.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: The University President

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

(date)

_____/s/
President

Original received and forwarded to the Secretary of the Senate and Registrar for filing in the Archives of the University.

(date)

_____/s/
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

That the Senate receive the Report without endorsing its conclusions
and place it on file.

January 12, 1973

Dr. Werner A. Baum
Administration Building
Campus

Subject: Report of the Committee on Balance Between
Intramurals and Intercollegiate Athletics

REASON FOR THE COMMITTEE

This Committee was formed as a result of action taken at the May 13, 1971 meeting of the Faculty Senate, requesting the President to "establish a University-wide committee to consider the balance between intercollegiate and intramural sports programs and recommend policies and plans for implementing a comprehensive University-wide sports and recreation program." This action derived from a similar recommendation contained in the report of the Committee to Study the Causes and Incidence of Unrest and Disruption on the URI campus.

Because of initial difficulty in determining our mandate, the Committee invited Professor Carl H. Beckman, who had served on the Unrest Committee, to discuss the intent of their recommendation with us. Professor Beckman's views, as stated in his January 4, 1972, letter to the chairman of this Committee, are listed as Appendix "A" of this report.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROBLEM

Some members of the Committee began deliberation with the assumption that the University was overspending in the area of intercollegiate athletics and underspending in intramurals and recreational sports. A comparison was made of expenditures for intercollegiate athletics and for intramural/recreational sports among the Yankee Conference state universities as well as the

University of Delaware. This information is incorporated as Appendix "B". The Committee's evaluation of financial resources allocated to intercollegiate athletics led us to conclude that the University of Rhode Island is not spending disproportionately more funds for intercollegiate athletics, nor is URI spending a smaller portion of its intercollegiate athletic budget on the so-called minor sports, than are our sister universities. While we did not interview individual coaches to give their views on the adequacy of funding of each sport, the allocations per sport at URI are roughly comparable to those at the other Yankee Conference institutions.

This Committee would rate our intercollegiate athletic program as competitive within the Yankee Conference, but it is not overfunded. Football, for example, costs the University substantially more than any other sport, yet URI falls near the median in expenditures for football within the Conference. No other Yankee Conference university fields fewer teams than does URI. To suggest that funds be transferred from intercollegiate athletics to intramural/recreational sports would necessitate either the abandonment of one or more intercollegiate sports or the crippling of all of them as they are presently conducted. While the Committee believes that resources for intramural/recreational athletics should be substantially increased, we are unwilling to recommend that significant sums be transferred from the intercollegiate athletics budget because of the "Rob Peter to Pay Paul" implications of such a move.

Although the purposes are the same, the administration of intramural programs for men at URI differs from those for women. A Director of Intramurals is assigned by the Department of Physical Education for Men to conduct the intramural program for male students. He is assisted by two graduate

assistants and a part-time (10 hours/week) secretary in addition to undergraduate student supervisors for each sport. Organized intramural teams participate in fifteen sports during the academic year. The Program is geared primarily toward the undergraduate resident population. Few special efforts are made to appeal to commuter students or to graduate students. The Men's Intramural Council is apparently defunct.

The intramural and intercollegiate programs for women are organized by the Women's Athletic Association, which is a student group advised by a faculty member assigned to the task. Each faculty member acts as advisor for the sports in her area of expertise on a voluntary basis. Teams compete in nine sports on an intercollegiate level, and complete a schedule of games each playing season. Coaching, high levels of skill, and regular practice sessions are part of varsity team training. Intramural competition includes tournament play in six sports for teams representing sororities and living units. Six clubs include interest groups in gymnastics, modern dance, and co-education sports.

The most significant recent development in women's athletics has been the rapid growth in student interest in intercollegiate competition in virtually every sport. Because all faculty members in the department of women's physical education are expected to teach a full academic load, coaching an intercollegiate team is a voluntary matter. While this has been possible in the past, the demand for expanded schedules and more intensive coaching is straining the department.

The demand for intramural programs for women has not grown apace with the interest in intercollegiate athletics. Improved secondary school physical

education programs have apparently aroused enthusiasm among the more skilled women athletes, but a comparable interest has not yet developed among those who are not athletically gifted.

Recreational sports (defined as athletic activities outside the intramural or intercollegiate athletic programs) are limited. Scheduling is a problem because the academic program, intercollegiate athletics, and intramurals command higher priority for the use of facilities, some of which are severely limited.* Recreational sports are neither promoted nor supervised at URI.

The summer recreational program stands in marked contrast to that which is available during the academic year. A supervised recreation program offers both individual instruction and open recreation. This program is considered a significant feature of the total summer session program.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The most obvious and pressing need is for additional staff to promote, organize, and supervise a comprehensive intramural/recreational program. While our existing program is inadequate for a university with more than 10,000 students, its very existence stems from the dedication of those staff members who are presently involved with the program. Indeed, to some extent the present intramural program is limited by sheer physical inability to supervise two or more sports simultaneously.

One solution which the Committee considered was to employ football or basketball coaches outside their regular season to supervise intramural programs for men. This is not desirable because a quality intramural/recreational sports program requires staff who are trained in and dedicated to

* Space limitations have become more severe now that Rodman Hall is no longer available.

this area. The Committee believes that the staffing needs of an expanded program can be met for the present by employing graduate students, additional undergraduate employees, weekend custodial help, and expanded secretarial assistance. A proposed staffing pattern would include four graduate assistants (two for intramurals, one for recreation, and one for club sports,) who are enrolled as majors in physical education. The undergraduate staff, who would be involved in officiating and supervising individual contests under the direction of graduate assistants, would expand with the growth of the program. Weekend custodial staff should be regularly available because of the heavy use the facilities receive on Saturdays and Sundays. The minimal custodial complement should be two custodians on duty at all times. This expanded program will require increasing the available secretarial assistance from the present part-time to a full-time position.

2. One of the most significant weaknesses of the present intramural program for men is that it is not sufficiently promoted due to the staffing needs described above. The Committee believes that if greater efforts were made to encourage the formation of more teams, the number of participants could be dramatically increased. There is no reason, for example, why student living units could not have several teams participating in each sport. The purpose of intramurals is not to have the best athletes from each unit compete but rather to have as many people as possible participate. Expanded programs for teams based on academic departments would be one way of encouraging more commuters and graduate students to participate. With the additional staff recommended by the Committee, the Director of Intramurals will be freed to stimulate more widespread participation. The Committee is convinced that student interest exists; it is only necessary to create vehicles

which make widespread participation possible.

3. The Committee believes that the women's athletic program is at a point where it must make a major policy decision. Student pressure is creating a demand for a significant upgrading of intercollegiate athletics for women. The parallel with the situation at the turn of the Century which led to the formation of separate departments of intercollegiate athletics for men is striking. Unless the University establishes guidelines for determining priorities in this area, natural pressures for growth will result in commitments of substantial University resources. The Committee recommends the formation of an Athletic Council for Women, with faculty, student, and administrative membership, to recommend policy for women's intercollegiate athletics. This Council should determine the level and extent of intercollegiate competition most appropriate to URI. The Council would oversee the intercollegiate phase of the Women's Athletic Association.

4. At present there is no formal mechanism for organizing coeducational recreational activities. With the creation of coed residence halls, it seems logical to anticipate a demand for coeducational recreative sports. Since the women's physical education program does not have a full-time intramural director, the Committee recommends as an introductory step that coeducational activities be assigned to the Director of Intramurals for Men. It is expected that he would work closely with the Women's Athletic Association co-recreation coordinator.

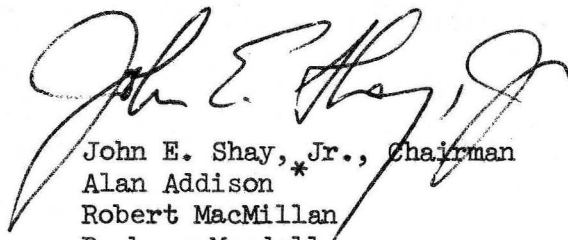
5. The Committee recommends the regeneration and reorganization of the Intramural Council. The Council should consist of faculty, students, and administrators, with the Director of Intramurals as an ex-officio member. The

primary mission of this Council ought to be how best to make athletic competition available to everyone who would like to participate.

6. The Committee believes that each of URI's intercollegiate teams ought to be competitive and respectable within the Yankee Conference (which appears to us to be a logical association of comparable institutions with similar goals) and with other institutions with whom we have traditionally competed. This Committee feels that for the sports in which we engage, the University's record in recent years has demonstrated that nearly all of our teams have been competitive.

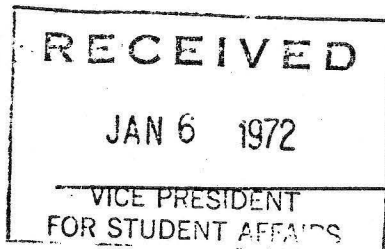
7. The Committee recognizes that the University cannot supply the resources to field a team in every sport in the athletic lexicon. We caution the University not to expand the number of sports in which we engage beyond our ability to provide staffing and operational funds to enable each team to be competitive.

Respectfully submitted,



John E. Shay, Jr., Chairman
Alan Addison *
Robert MacMillan
Barbara Mandell
Alan Marcus
Evans Ralston *
Maurice Zarchen

* Graduated before finalization of report



UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
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January 4, 1972

Dr. J. E. Shay, Jr.
Vice President for Student Affairs
1 Taft Hall
Campus:

Dear John:

Thank you for your memo of January 3. I shall try to answer your question concerning "the balance" between intramural and intercollegiate athletics. Let me say at the outset that it is a simple matter of two programs competing for a limited amount of funding and physical resources.

As you are aware, the "Unrest" Committee of the Faculty Senate conducted several hearings and solicited opinions of faculty, students and administrators concerning causes for frustration and unrest, particularly in the local setting at URI. It was largely on the basis of the report of this committee that the Faculty Senate recommended and the President established the ad hoc committee to study the balance between intramural and intercollegiate athletics.

The one most common and vigorous complaint encountered by the unrest committee was concerned with the enormous financial and material support given to certain intercollegiate sports, notably football and basketball, versus the notable lack of support for other intercollegiate and intramural sports and physical education programs. It seemed to a great majority of faculty and students that the whole philosophy behind these programs was out of phase with current realities and needed to be given a hard review. The frustration arose when numerous attempts to do so ran into a barrier of apparent autonomy within the Athletic Department and apparent immunity from financial review. Let me consider a few questions.

The old argument that intercollegiate football, for example, pays for other athletic programs appears to be no longer tenable, if it is not blatantly untrue. It doesn't take a genius to approximate major costs and receipts and come up with sizable deficits. In these times of great financial stress, we need to make every dollar work to the utmost within the framework of sound educational policy.

From an educational standpoint, do we need the program as a professional school for the training of professional football players? I believe the answer must be no. We have placed very few football players

Dr. Shay
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in the professional ranks. All of New England might be able to field a team that might compete as a "farm club" but we in Rhode Island certainly cannot afford "farm club" status.


Do we then want to abandon athletics and sports programs? The answer must be an emphatic NO. In the final analysis we may want to increase the program, but it must be in a way that meets needs and priorities of the great majority in the University.

According to the views of the faculty and students, and the "Unrest" Committee in particular, the basic policy should be that "priority in effort and resources be given to the development of intramural and recreation programs in which all members of the University community can participate and find health, relaxation and enjoyment" (Unrest Committee Report - 1971). This implies a sports program for everyone, not a few, and a sports and recreation program geared to the amateur and teachers of amateurs, not to the professional. It also implies a priority for sports that are continuing sports, i.e. those that a person can readily continue after leaving the University of Rhode Island. It also implies far more activities for women students.

It is my strong personal conviction that with such a change in emphasis, the athletic and physical education departments can flourish in the future. I can envision a not-too-distant day, for example, when we may hold a homecoming weekend centered around a sports carnival. With hundreds of students rather than tens of students participating, consider the numbers of alumni and parents and relatives and friends such an occasion could draw! The potential is enormous. And those large numbers of participating students, those future alumni, may some day look back upon their University stay with far greater enthusiasm because of a vigorous, healthy sports outlet cultivated at URI. This is what we should be aiming for.

If your committee would like to have me answer any further questions, I shall be happy to serve in any way I can.

Sincerely yours,



Carl H. Beckman
Professor
Plant Pathology-Entomology

CHB:skq

cc: Dr. Werner Baum
Dr. Stephen Schwarz