

5-3-1973

## ADOPTION OF THE MODIFIED SEMESTER SYSTEM FOR THE YEARS 1974-79

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
KINGSTON, R. I. 02881

Office of the President

December 12, 1973

Dr. Maury Klein, Chairman  
Faculty Senate  
Faculty Senate Office  
Roosevelt Hall, Campus

RECEIVED

DEC 13 1973

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
FACULTY SENATE

Dear Maury,

I am returning herewith Senate Bill #72-73-36 disapproved. In a memorandum dated May 16, 1973 President Werner Baum requested of Professor Stephen Wood additional time beyond May 24 to consider this Bill because of its broad implications. Professor Wood responded on May 17, 1973 granting the extension of time. Subsequently, President Baum appointed an ad hoc Advisory Committee on the Modified Calendar System and charged the Committee with reviewing the proposed calendar and looking into the administrative implications of the changes proposed. The ad hoc Committee reported to me on November 23, 1973. (The report was distributed to the Faculty Senate on November 29, 1973.) On the basis of the report and on the basis of my own review of the proposal, it is my judgment that it is in the best interests of the University not to adopt this calendar at this time.

The ad hoc Committee report identifies some areas and questions which I think were not addressed by the Faculty Senate Academic Standards and Calendar Committee or by the Senate itself. Although it appears that administrative arrangements can be made in many areas to accommodate the modified semester system, there are several important issues which I shall identify below which have not been resolved. I therefore recommend that Senate Bill #72-73-36 "Adoption of the Modified Calendar System for the Years 1974-79" be reconsidered by the Senate and referred back to the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee for further study. My specific reasons for disapproving the Bill are as follows:

(1) The modified semester system calls for shortening the formal instructional period (classroom and laboratory instruction) from 14 1/2 weeks to 12 1/2 weeks for each semester. The two-week difference in each semester adds up to a four-week period during which there would be no formal instruction under the modified semester

system whereas there would have been formal classroom and laboratory instruction under the present semester format.

During the discussion and debate in the Faculty Senate, members of the faculty and of the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee reported that this four-week period (there are actually five weeks and two days between semesters) would be used by students and faculty to engage in activity which is best suited to a long uninterrupted period, an option which is not available under the present system. It was reported at the Senate meetings that plans would be developed for short courses (as in a 4-1-4 system), research projects, student study projects, independent study, off-campus study, travel, etc. The point was also made that faculty members would have the opportunity to spend concentrated time on writing research proposals and convening special seminars and conferences. I believe that most if not all of these suggestions were made at the Faculty Senate meetings.

Although I think that the modified semester system which provides for formal instruction in the traditional modes for two 12 1/2 week periods and for other types of instruction and planned and organized learning experiences for another four weeks may be desirable, I feel that the new system should not be adopted until specific plans and programs are adopted for the four week period. Even if the new system were approved on campus, I doubt very much that it would be approved or accepted by the Council of Presidents, the Commissioner of Education, or the Board of Regents without specific plans for the four week period. (I shall comment further on this point below.)

(2) The present semester arrangement provides for nine class periods between 8:00 a. m. and 4:50 p. m. for classes scheduled on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday. The modified semester system, with the same number of periods with 15-minute intervals between classes, would require that the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday class days begin at 8:00 a. m. and conclude at 7:00 p. m. . . Two-hour laboratories normally scheduled on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 3:30 p. m. now end at 5:45 p. m. . . On the modified semester system the comparable lab might have to begin at 4:45 p. m. and end at 7:00 p. m. For the Tuesday - Thursday pattern under the present system with 75-minute periods and 15-minute intervals, the class day begins at 8:00 a. m. and ends at 4:45 p. m. Under the modified semester system, with 90-minute classes, the class day would begin at 8:00 a. m. and

end at 6:15 p.m. More attention needs to be given to the length of the class day and the options for offering one-hour lectures, two, three, and four-hour laboratories. I don't think that these questions were addressed sufficiently by the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee.

(3) Both the Dean of the College of Nursing and the Dean of the College of Pharmacy have indicated that the modified semester system is very likely to create problems in arranging the clinical experience for students enrolled in their colleges. (This may also be true for students in the Medical Technology program in the College of Arts and Sciences.) Both Deans say that it may be possible to accommodate the change but at the present time they are not sure that this can be accomplished. I think that this question, which may have been overlooked by the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee, must also be addressed. Before any calendar change is approved we must be assured that the Colleges of Nursing and Pharmacy (and other programs where professional licensure is involved) are satisfied that the calendar permits them to meet accreditation and licensure requirements. Otherwise it may be necessary to adopt a different calendar for these Colleges or for students enrolled in certain programs.

It is important to me that I be able to support enthusiastically the modified semester system. I am not able to do so in the absence of answers to the three objections raised above, especially the first one. Normally, a calendar change would be handled as an internal matter and would not go beyond the University campus. However, you are aware that at the request of the Commissioner of Education, President Baum did discuss proposed calendar changes with the Commissioner and the Presidents of Rhode Island College and Rhode Island Junior College. At the time of their discussions it was agreed that any substantial change proposed by the University would be brought to the Council of Presidents and the Commissioner. Although their formal approval is not required, I am sure that if they raise serious objections to our calendar the matter will be brought before the Board of Regents.

I realize that with my disapproval of Senate Bill #72-73-36 the University does not have a calendar for the 1974-75 academic year. You will recall that the Faculty Senate, in passing Bill #72-73-46, "Second Report of the Faculty Senate to the Calendar Committee; Revised Calendar for 1974-75," adopted a calendar for 1974-75. This calendar was disapproved by President Baum on May 22, 1973 and returned to the Senate. Therefore, it will now be necessary for the University to adopt a calendar for 1974-75. At this time, I would like to recommend, and I will do so formally at the Faculty Senate meeting, a calendar for 1974-75 modeled

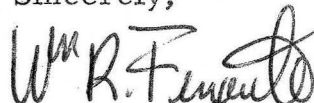
after our present system. This calendar incorporates many of the changes which were proposed by the Faculty Senate in Senate Bill #72-73-36. It includes these features:

- (1) The Fall semester will begin after Labor Day.
- (2) The Fall semester, including the examination period, will end before Christmas.
- (3) The Spring semester includes a one-week recess.
- (4) Classes are 50-minutes in length with 10-minute intervals (the same calendar may be adopted with classes 50-minutes in length with 15-minute intervals). The total number of classes on both the MWF sequence and the T-Th sequence is comparable to the number provided during the last five years (see attachment).
- (5) The calendar provides for a six-day examination period including one Saturday (December 21). With a six-day examination period it may be that examinations must be limited to two hours in length. This is a matter which will have to be studied further by the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee with the assistance of the Registrar. It may be possible to accommodate three hour examinations by scheduling examinations during some of the evenings of the examination period.
- (6) The period between the Spring and Fall semesters is at least three full weeks in length. This period may be extended to four full weeks if it is considered desirable. Please note that the period in January when classes are not being held would not come about from a shortening of the formal instructional period.

I have enclosed two tables describing the features of the proposal for 1974-75.

I will recommend that this proposed calendar be adopted by the Faculty Senate and that during the remainder of this academic year the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee and the Faculty Senate give further study to the modified semester system. I shall be glad to meet with the members of the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee.

Sincerely,



William R. Ferrante  
Acting President

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Jordan Miller

Serial Number 72-73--36  
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE

BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITY OF R. I.  
MAY 14 1973  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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

1. The Attached BILL, titled ADOPTION OF THE MODIFIED SEMESTER SYSTEM  
FOR THE YEARS 1974-79

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 73-5-3  
(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 73-5-24 (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 11, 1973  
(date)

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

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.

12/12/73  
(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.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
(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.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
(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.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
(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.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
(date) Chairman of the Faculty Senate

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode Island

ADOPTION OF THE MODIFIED SEMESTER SYSTEM FOR THE  
YEARS 1974-79

The Faculty Senate at its meeting on May 3, 1973 passed the following:

The University shall adopt for the five years (1974-79) the modified semester system according to the attached guidelines.



UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
KINGSTON, Rhode Island

MODIFIED SEMESTER SYSTEM

1. Start the day after Labor Day.
2. End Fall semester before Christmas, no later than December 22.
3. <sup>One</sup>~~Two~~ week Spring recess.
4. 60 minute periods MWF, 90 minute periods TR.
5. 15 minutes between classes.
6. Three hour final examinations for eight days.
7. Spring semester will not begin before the fourth week in January.

Office of the Registrar

May 27, 1971

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

MODIFIED SEMESTER SYSTEM

FALL

	<u>1973-74</u>	<u>1974-75</u>	<u>1975-76</u>
Registration	9/4-9/5	9/3-9/4	9/2-9/3
Classes Begin	9/6	9/5	9/4
Holiday, Columbus Day	10/8	10/14	10/13
Mid-Semester	10/26	10/25	10/24
Holiday, Veterans Day	10/29	10/28	10/29
Thanksgiving Recess	11/21-11/26	11/27-12/2	11/26-12/1
Classes End	12/7	12/6	12/5
Final Examinations	12/10-12/18	12/9-12/17	12/8-12/16
Last Day For Grades	12/21	12/19	12/18
	MWF - 37	MWF - 37	MWF - 37
	TR - <u>26</u>	TR - <u>26</u>	TR - <u>26</u>
	63	63	63

SPRING

Registration	1/7-1/8	1/6-1/7	1/5-1/6
Classes Begin	1/9	1/8	1/7
Mid-Semester	2/22	2/21	2/20
Spring Recess	----	3/21-4/7	4/2-4/19
Classes End	4/5	4/18	4/2
Final Examinations	4/22-4/30	4/21-4/29	4/19-4/27
Last Day For Grades	5/2	5/1	4/29
Commencement	5/12	5/11	5/9
	MWF - 38	MWF - 38	MWF - 38
	TR - <u>25</u>	TR - <u>25</u>	TR - <u>25</u>
	63	63	63

Summer

	6/3-7/12	6/2-7/11	5/31-7/9
	7/22-8/30	7/21-8/29	7/19-8/27