

4-30-1987

Report of the Ad hoc Committee to Review the Office of Ombudsperson

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE
BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

TO: President Edward D. Eddy

FROM: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Office of Ombudsperson

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 April 30, 1987 (date)
4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Governors, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
5. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective May 21, 1987, 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 Governors for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Governors, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

May 1, 1987
(date)

Richard Katula
Richard Katula
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

Returned.

- a. Approved
- b. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Governors _____.
- c. Disapproved _____.

May 15, 1987
(date)

Edward D. Eddy
President

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
TO REVIEW THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSPERSON

April, 1987

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

In October, 1986, the Faculty Senate created the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Office of Ombudsperson and charged the committee with reviewing the office and making any recommendations for modifications in the Ombudsman's Office they deem appropriate. The committee has met six times and has consulted with Assistant Vice President Swan, Professor Emeritus Helen Greene, the University Ombudsperson, Ms. Elizabeth Riley, the Student Assistant to the Ombudsperson, and former Ombudspersons Professor Wayne Durfee and Associate Professor Emeritus Jean Houston. In addition, members of the committee had conversations with Mr. Scott Bosworth, President of the Student Senate, Ms. Michaela Turcotte, President of the Graduate Student Association, and Dr. Thomas Dougan, Executive Officer of Student Affairs. The committee also sent questionnaires on the Ombudsperson's Office to the academic deans and other administrators. The committee has found overwhelming support for retaining the Office of Ombudsperson and is recommending that the Office of Ombudsperson and Student Assistant to the Ombudsperson be retained with a few minor changes.

The committee recommends that the Faculty Senate shorten the name of the position to Ombud which means "deputy" and delete Ombudsman and Ombudsperson which are somewhat awkward. With regard to the Ombud's position, the committee recommends that tenured full professors and emeritus faculty members be eligible for appointment, and that the language regarding release time, summer stipends and stipends for emeritus faculty members be clarified. In addition, the committee recommends that the student assistant be appointed from a broader base by allowing the Graduate Student Association as well as the Student Senate to nominate students for the position, that the student stipend be increased from \$500. to \$1,000. per semester and that the appointment procedure for the student assistant be clarified. The committee also recommends that the Ombudsman's Editorial Advisory Committee be eliminated.

In addition to recommendations to the Faculty Senate, the committee recommends that the Ombud prepare guidelines for the student assistant and a job description for the student assistant position; develop a pamphlet for Freshman Orientation; and publicize the Office more extensively in order to increase its visibility on campus.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The committee recommends that the Faculty Senate approve the following revisions to the University Manual:

- A. In sections ~~2.39.10~~ through ~~2.39.20~~ substitute "Ombud" for "Ombudsman" and "Ombudsperson" wherever they appear.
- B. ~~Amend section 2.39.11 to read as follows (change is underlined):~~
- defeated* ~~2.39.11 The Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall jointly nominate a full-time, tenured full professor or an emeritus faculty member for the post of Ombud and shall submit the name of a nominee to the Faculty Senate for confirmation, no later than May 1st of the year in which the Ombud's term is to begin.~~
- C. Add the following sentence (formerly in ~~2.39.19~~) to the end of the subsection of ~~2.39.13~~ titled Recommendation and Report:
- In addition to the annual report, the Ombud shall periodically publish in appropriate campus media information on University regulations and suggestions regarding their application.
- D. Delete existing section ~~2.39.17~~ on the student assistant, divide existing ~~2.39.18~~ into ~~2.39.17~~ and ~~2.39.18~~ and revise as follows (change is underlined):

2.39.17 The Ombud shall be provided with office facilities by the Vice President for Academic Affairs including part-time secretarial help.

2.39.18 Compensation and Release Time. If the nominee is a full-time faculty member, his/her teaching and/or research load shall be adjusted in consultation with his/her departmental chairperson, his/her dean, and the Academic Vice President. Every effort shall be made to reduce his/her teaching and research load appropriately and professional expectations for accomplishment in these areas shall reflect this commitment to the position of Ombud. S/he shall be free of all committee assignments, student advising and other similar duties, during his/her term of office. The faculty member's department shall be provided with replacement funding from the Vice President for Academic Affairs to the extent of one course per semester. Any additional released time for a full-time faculty member, shall be negotiated by the nominee with the Vice President for Academic Affairs before Faculty Senate confirmation.

REPORT OF THE JOINT FACULTY SENATE - AAUP AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON PART-TIME AND NON-CONTINUING FACULTY

April, 1987

The summer retainer and any compensation for an emeritus faculty member shall be provided by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

- E. Delete existing section 2.39.19 (now 2.39.13) and add the following new section on the student assistant (change is underlined):

2.39.19 Student Assistant. The Ombud shall be assisted by a student appointed by the President by July 1 each year in accordance with the procedure outlined below. In March of each academic year, the Student Senate and Graduate Student Association shall conduct searches for their nominees to the position of Student Assistant to the Ombud. The searches shall be conducted in a manner established by each organization. The names of no more than three nominees from each group shall be forwarded to the current Ombud by May 1. Finalists for the position shall be interviewed by a committee composed of the current Ombud, the newly appointed Ombud, and representatives of the President, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Student Senate and the Graduate Student Association. The committee shall be convened by the current Ombud and shall make its recommendation to the President no later than June 15. The Ombud's Student Assistant shall perform his/her duties in consultation with and under the direction of the Ombud, shall serve a one-year term, and shall be eligible to succeed himself/herself. The Ombud's Student Assistant shall receive a stipend of \$1000. per semester, to be paid by the University.

- F. Delete sections 5.42.10 and 5.42.11 on the Ombudsman's Editorial Advisory Committee.

Members of the Committee:

Lucille Cameron, LIB, Chairperson
Robert Haas, ELE
Gerasimos Ladas, MTH
Bernice Lott, PSY
Sheila Black Grubman, ex officio

I. Background

On April 1, 1986, the Faculty Senate created this committee to investigate the use of part-time and non-continuing faculty at the University of Rhode Island and to recommend policy.

II. Investigation

We have met regularly since September 1986. We have collected information from both external and internal sources.

A. External

Studies of part-time and temporary faculty published in *Academe*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, etc. Contracts from other universities. (Contracts summarized in Appendix B)

B. Internal

1. Interviews with faculty and chairpeople.

2. Data provided by Vice President Rosie about temporary instructional staff. This information covers the years 1985-86 and 1986-87. We have analyzed the 1986-87 data. (Appendix C)

3. Questions sent to the Affirmative Action Officer. Data not received yet.

4. Questionnaires sent to all department chairpeople. Twenty-five responses received and analyzed. (Appendix D)

5. Questionnaires sent to part-time and non-continuing faculty. With assistance from the Research Center for Business and Management, we developed and analyzed this questionnaire. (Appendix A)

III. Summary and discussion

Although our data is not guaranteed accurate, we believe that it is sufficiently accurate for our purposes. People teach in part-time or non-continuing positions for a variety of reasons. They may be semi-retired, completing advanced academic degrees at this or another institution, or geographically limited in their job searches for personal or family reasons. These factors influence the particular needs of each group; for example, an Emeritus professor is not as eager for job security as a junior