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## Academic Standards and Calendar Committee Report #1990-91-3: University Calendar - Commencement and Spring Break

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE  
BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

TO: President Edward D. Eddy

FROM: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Academic Standards and Calendar Committee Report #1990-91-3: University Calendar - Commencement and Spring Break

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 11, 1991.  
(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 2, 1991, 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.

April 12, 1991  
(date)

Winifred Brownell  
Winifred Brownell  
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

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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 \_\_\_\_\_.

April 26, 1991  
(date)

Edward D. Eddy  
President

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND CALENDAR COMMITTEE  
REPORT #1990-91-3

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR  
COMMENCEMENT AND SPRING BREAK

- heavy traffic is a problem for those traveling on Memorial Day weekend
- faculty attendance would probably improve if commencement is held closer to the end of the semester
- some proprietors require three-day bookings for rooms over the Memorial Day weekends

I. THE 1992 COMMENCEMENT

A. Recommendation

The Academic Standards and Calendar Committee recommends approval of the following:

1. That the 1992 Commencement be held on the weekend immediately following the last due date for spring semester grades, Sunday, May 17, 1992.
2. That section 8.70.40, amended by the Faculty Senate on December 13, 1990, become effective for the 1991-92 academic year:

8.70.40 The Spring Semester. Commencement shall be held on the weekend immediately following the last due date for spring semester grades.

B. Background and Rationale

Following the December 13, 1990 action by the Faculty Senate directing the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee (ASCC) to "look at the capability of changing the date of the 1992 Commencement," the ASCC wrote to the President, Provost and Vice Presidents to determine if changing the date would create any serious problems. No objections were raised.

After reviewing the reasons set forth when the date was changed for the 1993 Commencement, the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee voted to recommend that the date of the 1992 Commencement be changed to the weekend following the last due date for midsemester grades.

The reasons for making the change were:

- students who live down the line must frequently move before Memorial Day weekend
- accommodations for families of graduates are difficult to find on Memorial Day weekend

II. SPRING BREAK

At its December 13, 1990 meeting the Faculty Senate directed the ASCC "to look into the feasibility of having the spring break coincide with one of the public school vacations." The first public school vacation starts on the third Monday in February and runs for one week. The second public school break starts eight weeks after the third Monday in February. This means these breaks are normally during the third week in February and the third week in April

The ASCC believes the public school vacations are too early and too late to make sense from the standpoint of the University calendar. The week following mid-semester examinations is a much more appropriate time. Therefore, the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee agreed to recommend no change in the University Calendar with regard to the spring break.

Members of the Committee:

Patricia Jensen, LSC  
Alfred Killilea, PSC  
John Long, EDC  
Norbert Mundorf, SPE  
Sandra Saunders, DHY  
Richard Weeks, MKT, (92), Chairperson  
John F. Demitroff, Registrar, ex officio  
Mark Kenyon, student  
Ahmad Tahajod, student

2) OCG 451 and 542 would not have to be taken in sequence because 401 would provide the necessary background for 542, which could be taken in the Spring of the Junior year. The 541 course would then be the first course taken as a Senior, allowing a somewhat more mature and directed student to more easily master some of its more challenging material.

3) Finally, the last semester of the Senior year will be reserved for the 400-level special topics or senior research course, for which the student would then have the necessary prerequisites. It is envisioned as a directed reading and/or research course with a GSO faculty member as an advisor.

Following is the catalog description and a detailed curriculum for the new program:

#### Bachelor of Science in Geology and Geological Oceanography

This demanding program includes a comprehensive background in geology and a solid introduction to geological oceanography. The curriculum includes the chemistry, physics, biology and mathematics courses required for a B.S. in Geology. Students in the program will be advised jointly by geology and oceanography faculty members.

A senior research project will be taken at the Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO) as OCE 493 or 494 under the direction of a GSO faculty member. Three core courses on Oceanography, OCG 401 (General Oceanography), OCG 541 and 542 (Principles of Marine Geology and Geophysics), will provide students with a good overview of their intended field, and also relieves students of two required courses if they continue in oceanography at the graduate level at The University of Rhode Island. Moreover, students may find opportunities for summer employment and/or participation in oceanographic research cruises after the junior year.

Students graduating in this program of study will be well prepared to pursue either conventional geology career options or careers in geological oceanography. For geological oceanographers at the B.S. level, technical positions in private or government oceanographic laboratories are available. Students who continue on to graduate studies can expect a high demand for geological oceanographers with advanced degrees. Completion of this program will provide a head start for students entering The University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography in comparison with those entering from other undergraduate institutions.

A total of 126 credits is required for graduation.

Suggested program of study for B.S. in Geology and Geological Oceanography:

#### Freshman Year

Fall (14-15 cr.): GEL 103 and 106 (4); BIO 101 or BOT 111 (3-4); CHM 099 or 101 and 102 (4); Basic Liberal Studies (3).

Spring (14-15 cr.): GEL 210 or 240 (4); BIO 102 or ZOO 111 and 185 (4); CHM 112 and 114 (4) or 101 if 099 taken in Fall; MTH 111 (if needed for background) or Basic Liberal Studies (3).

#### Sophomore Year

Fall (14-16 cr.): GEL 320 (4); PHY 213 and 285 or 111 and 185 (4); MTH 131 or 141 (3-4); CHM 112 and 114 if not taken in Freshman Year or Basic Liberal Studies (4-3).

Spring (15-16 cr.): GEL 240 or 210 whichever not taken in previous year (4); GEL 321 (4); PHY 214 and 286 or 112 and 186 (4); MTH 132 or 142 (3-4).

#### Junior Year

Fall (16 cr.): GEL 422 (3), 450 (4); OCG 401 (3); EST 308 or CSC 201 (3); Basic Liberal Studies (3).

Spring (16 cr.): GEL 370 (4); OCG 542 (4); Electives and/or Basic Liberal Studies (8).

Summer (4 cr.): Field Camp usually between Junior and Senior years (4).

#### Senior Year

Fall (16 cr.): GEL 465 (3); OCG 541 (4); Electives and/or Basic Liberal Studies (9).

Spring (15 cr.): GEL 488; OCG 493 or 494 (3); Electives and/or Basic Liberal Studies (9).

Total credits: 126, including 6-10 credits of free electives, depending on courses selected.

#### F. Evaluation

The program will be continuously evaluated by the Geology Department and Graduate School of Oceanography faculty members participating in the program as to effectiveness in attracting students, quality of students and their success in professional careers or further graduate study. An advisor in Geology and an advisor in Geological Oceanography is a requirement of this program, and entry into the program at the junior year will require approval by both departments.