

9-29-1994

## Report of the Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee: New Sections 3.90.10-12 and 3.95.10-11 of the UNIVERSITY MANUAL

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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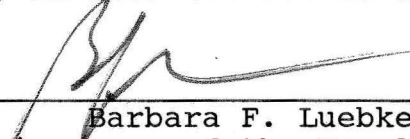
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THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode Island  
FACULTY SENATE  
BILL  
Adopted by the Faculty Senate

TO: President Robert L. Carothers  
FROM: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Report of the Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee: New Sections 3.90.10-12 and 3.95.10-11 of the UNIVERSITY MANUAL, 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 September 29, 1994 (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 October 20, 1994, 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.

September 30, 1994  
(date)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara F. Luebke  
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 \_\_\_\_\_.

10/5/94  
(date)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND UNIVERSITY MANUAL COMMITTEE  
SECTIONS 3.90-10-12 AND 3.95.10-11 OF THE UNIVERSITY MANUAL

May, 1994

During the 1992-93 academic year, the Faculty Senate approved the establishment of two centers. The Faculty Institute on Writing was approved by the Faculty Senate on March 11, 1993 and by the President on March 17, 1993. The Center for Vector-Borne Diseases was approved by the Faculty Senate on March 25, 1993 and by the President on March 31, 1993. These new centers were approved by the Board of Governors for Higher Education during the 1993-94 academic year, the Faculty Institute on Writing on September 7, 1993 and the Center for Vector Borne Diseases on April 7, 1994.

The Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee recommends the inclusion of these approved centers into the UNIVERSITY MANUAL.

Add the following new sections to the UNIVERSITY MANUAL:

3.90.10 The Center for Vector-Borne Diseases shall bestow an appropriate designation on active interdisciplinary group of faculty while keeping within the existing University structure; create an atmosphere that encourages free exchange of ideas and effort among the varied disciplines represented by interested faculty; and enhance opportunities for attracting and developing research funding and other resources.

3.90.11 The Center shall create a ~~researchable~~ research focus necessary for developing and soliciting research funds; identify potential state, national, and worldwide resources in the specific field of study; provide a University wide identity for faculty and research programs involved in vector-borne disease research under several departmental designations (i.e. Plant Sciences, Microbiology, Zoology); create an attractive program of research for students, post-doctoral fellows and visiting scientists from the United States and abroad; and attract public attention to the University and its expertise in the field of vector-borne diseases, especially Lyme disease.

3.90.12 The Center shall function as an externally funded research entity.

3.95.10 The Faculty Institute on Writing shall initiate and support policies and activities that place good writing at the center of a high quality education. The Institute shall hold workshops on writing and the teaching of writing for faculty from across the curriculum; aid faculty and departments with the design of writing intensive courses; conduct research on writing across the curriculum; seek funds for the development of writing across the curriculum; and hold conventions, contests, and other events for students and administrators in order to promote writing as a means of learning, of self-expression, of communication, and of engaged productivity.

3.95.11 The Institute shall be administered by a director who shall report to the College of Arts and Sciences. The Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Student Writing shall advise, monitor and evaluate the Institute's efforts. The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (or a designee) shall serve on this Subcommittee and participate in the Institute's evaluation. The Subcommittee shall report on the Institute's activities as part of its annual report to the Faculty Senate.

Members of the Committee:

Michael Honhart, HIS  
Mimi Keefe, LIB  
Linda Shamoon, ENG  
Leena Siitonen, LSC  
Niels West, MAF  
Fritz Wenisch, PHL, Chairperson  
Sheila Black Grubman, ex officio

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode Island

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
GENERAL EDUCATION PROPOSAL

September 1994

I. INTRODUCTION

The Charge to the Committee

At the Fall 1993 Convocation of the University, President Carothers placed before the University community a proposed strategic plan for "Building a New Culture for Learning" at the University of Rhode Island. At its first meeting of the 1993-94 academic year the Faculty Senate suspended its deliberations on old business and took up the President's proposal. On September 30, 1993, the Senate voted to require the Senate Executive Committee to bring forward a relatively specific legislative proposal based on the President's Strategic Plan, and at its October 7, 1993 meeting the Faculty Senate began deliberation on this version of the proposal.

Resolution #1 of the proposal before the Faculty Senate dealt with the University's general education requirements. At the October 7 meeting, the Senate voted to revise Resolution #1 to resolve "that the faculty of the University of Rhode Island should develop a program of general education to be presented to the Faculty Senate by its first meeting in February 1994 with [a following set of] general but non-binding guidelines." After deliberation on the non-binding guidelines at subsequent meetings, the Senate approved a revised version of Resolution #1 on November 4, 1993.

At that point the Executive Committee formally directed the University College and General Education Committee to begin deliberation on a new general education program to be developed on the basis of the non-binding guidelines provided by the Faculty Senate. The Resolution #1 guidelines are appended to this report. A report to the Faculty Senate was required for the first February, 1994 Senate meeting. Subsequently the Executive Committee urged the UCGE Committee to present a general education proposal suitable for legislative action by the second April, 1994 Senate meeting.

Background on Proposal Preparation

Recognizing its responsibility for the general education program of the University, the University College and General Education Committee had anticipated its role with regard to the President's strategic plan. At its first meeting of the fall 1993 semester, on October 4, 1993, the UCGE Committee had unanimously voted in favor of the following motion.

The UCGE Committee enthusiastically supports President Carothers' vision (as outlined in the President's Strategic Plan) as it pertains to general education and believes that it could provide the basis for a better

general education program than we now have. We do so notwithstanding the fact that were the vision misinterpreted and implemented verbatim precisely as it now stands, it would pose a serious detriment to several of our current programs. We believe that the UCGE Committee, working with other faculty groups, could construct in short order a plan for implementation that is fundamentally consistent with the President's vision but which also provides for the practical necessities and quality needs of various programs. We think the President needs to understand that the faculty recognizes its responsibility and reserves its right to modify specifics in the process of developing a workable plan for implementation, even should some modifications be ones that appear to the President to move a distance from his vision. In other words, endorsement should not be interpreted as an abrogation of faculty responsibility for curricula nor carte blanche veto authority for the President as to whether any particular specific matter of implementation is or is not consistent with his vision.

At the same meeting, the Committee went on to identify and prioritize important topics to be considered in developing a proposal to implement the President's vision for general education. High priority topics were assigned to subcommittees, and every member of the committee agreed to serve on at least one of these. The subcommittees were charged to prepare written reports of their conclusions and these were presented at a December meeting of the Committee.

In preparation for its proposal, the committee reviewed materials from inside the University (previous reports and memoranda from a number of faculty, administrators, and other committees) and outside the university (articles and reports).

The Committee solicited input from Faculty Senators (announced at the November 4, 1993 Senate meeting) and via e-mail. This solicitation was renewed with the interim report presented to the Faculty Senate in February, 1994. The subcommittees interviewed relevant persons and sought written input. In December, 1993, Professor Stevenson and Dean Strommer met with Sandra Kanter of the New England Resource Center for Higher Education, an expert on issues in the implementation of general education programs. Information gained at this meeting was reported at the December meeting of the Committee. Data on previous demand for general education courses were compiled and reported at the January, 1994 meeting of the Committee.

In February, the Committee held an all-day retreat at the Alton Jones Campus to speed its progress. At that time votes were taken on most of the proposals put forward by subcommittees, and a report to the Faculty Senate was made based on progress to that point.

Through the spring semester the Committee met biweekly and Committee members made presentations to colleges, departments, and the Arts and Sciences Chairs meeting. The Committee welcomed presentations by several guests: a committee on cultural diversity, the current and incoming Chairs of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages