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Report of the Special Committee on Voting Rights

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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 Special Committee on Voting Rights, 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 January 25, 1996.
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 February 15, 1996, 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.

January 26, 1996
(date)

James G. Kowalski
James G. Kowalski
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 _____.

2/2/96
(date)

Robert L. Carothers
President

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON VOTING RIGHTS

January, 1996

B A C K G R O U N D

Following questions raised during the Spring Semester of 1995 concerning the right of associate deans to vote at college faculty meetings, the Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee recommended to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee that a special committee be formed to examine questions relating to the voting rights of Assistant and Associate deans, and of persons moved from Faculty positions to other administrative posts.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee recommended that this committee be formed and the Faculty Senate approved this recommendation on November 9, 1995.

The Special Committee on Voting Rights has considered the various items contained in its charge, and recommends that the following changes to the UNIVERSITY MANUAL be adopted.

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

- *1. Change existing section 4.11.10 as follows (change is in **boldface**):

4.11.10 Membership in the University Faculty, also referred to as the General Faculty, shall be based on appointment by the President and on direct participation in or supervision of any of the following activities: teaching, librarianship, and research, within the University. The General Faculty shall consist of continuing professors, associate professors, assistant professors, instructors (see 7.10.10); the President, the Provost, **the Vice Provost(s)**, the academic dean of each college or school and the Dean of the University Libraries.

*This change is subject to ratification by vote of the General Faculty. If it is approved by the Senate and the President, the Committee intends to present this change to the April meeting of the General Faculty.

2. Add the following new sections 4.11.11 and 4.11.12:

4.11.11 Any person who has General Faculty status and has assumed responsibility as assistant or associate dean at the University shall retain all voting privileges as a member of a department, college and of the University Faculty. In accordance with Article III of the Faculty Senate Constitution such persons shall be counted for Senate apportionment proportionate to their percentage of full-time equivalent faculty responsibilities, but may not be elected to the Faculty Senate or participate in Senate elections (see also section 2.1 of the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate).

4.11.12 Any person who has General Faculty status and is head of an academic program or research unit (e.g., Honors Program, Faculty Institute on Writing, Center for Vector-Borne Diseases, etc.) has all of the voting rights of a full-time continuing member of the University Faculty, including eligibility for election to the Faculty Senate and participation in Senate elections.

3. Renumber existing section 4.11.11 as 4.11.13 with editorial changes as follows (changes are in **boldface**):

4.11.13 Any person who has had **General Faculty** status and who is transferred in the University to a position or office which in itself does not carry such status shall retain **General Faculty** status so long as that person is employed by the University. However, that person shall not have rank, voting privileges in department or college meetings on matters requiring Faculty Senate approval, tenure (unless earned before the transfer), or the right of salary increment as defined for academic rank.

4. Add the following new section 4.11.14:

4.11.14 Persons who have lost or who have never held General Faculty status and who are appointed assistant or associate dean are not members of the University Faculty and shall not have department, college or university faculty voting privileges, nor shall they be counted for apportionment of the Faculty Senate.

Members of the Committee:

Barbara F. Luebke, JOR, Provost's designee
Walter Mueller, PLS, CBUM Committee representative
Ruth Waldman, Assistant Dean, College of Nursing
Fritz Wenisch, PHL, CBUM Committee representative
Sheila Black Grubman, Coordinator, Faculty Senate