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## Annual Report of the Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee for 1995-96

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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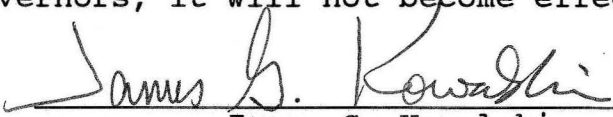
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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode Island  
FACULTY SENATE  
BILL  
Adopted by the Faculty Senate

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

1. The attached BILL, titled Annual Report of the Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee for 1995-96, 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 26, 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 October 17, 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.

October 1, 1996  
(date)

  
James G. Kowalski  
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

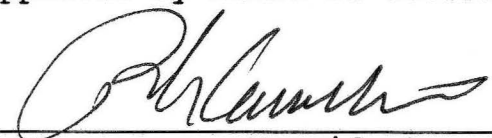
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ENDORSEMENT

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

10/6/96  
(date)

  
President

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE  
CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND UNIVERSITY MANUAL COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1995-96

April 24, 1996

As Amended and Approved by the Faculty Senate on September 26, 1996

I. INFORMATIONAL MATTERS

During the 1995-96 academic year the CBUM Committee considered several issues related to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Faculty Senate and to the UNIVERSITY MANUAL. The CBUM Committee spent the fall semester developing a draft for revising the relevant sections of the UNIVERSITY MANUAL on Prior Learning Assessment. The CBUM Committee's draft was eventually accepted by the Curricular Affairs Committee and forwarded to the Faculty Senate by the CAC for approval.

The CBUM Committee has devoted the spring semester to helping draft language for incorporating two pieces of Faculty Senate legislation into the UNIVERSITY MANUAL. Recommendations for the Center for the Humanities and Writing Intensive Courses are in Section II of this report.

In addition, the CBUM Committee responded to a request for clarification of Article III of the Faculty Senate Constitution; has drafted recommendations for combining the Research Policy and Facilities Committee and the Council for Research into the Faculty Senate Council for Research for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee; and is still working with the Graduate Council to develop language for the UNIVERSITY MANUAL on Graduate Faculty Status and criteria for membership on graduate committees.

II. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE CONFIRMATION BY THE FACULTY SENATE

A. CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES (Faculty Senate Bill #94-95--30)

The Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee recommends the approval of the addition of the following new sections 3.96.10-3.96.20; 5.39.10 to the UNIVERSITY MANUAL:

3.96.10 The Center for the Humanities shall include the disciplines of history, English, languages, philosophy, religious studies, art, art history, music, theatre; the interdisciplinary programs African and Afro-American studies, women's studies and comparative literature; as well as all other disciplines or departments that employ humanistic contents or humanistic approaches in research and teaching, especially anthropology, communication studies, economics, journalism, political science, psychology and sociology.

3.96.11 The purpose of the center shall be to foster intellectual exchange and independent inquiry, analysis and interpretation of the humanities in research and teaching.

3.96.12 The center shall accomplish its mission through the annual selection of two to four humanities fellows who shall be supported in their research, in their conducting of seminars with undergraduate and graduate students, and in their preparation of new courses for the undergraduate curriculum. The center shall also sponsor a series of lectures to be given by outside visiting scholars chosen as experts in a theme of the year.

3.96.13 The center shall be administered by an executive committee and a director (see section 5.39.10).

3.96.20 Evaluation. In addition to the regular review as mandated in section 8.90.30, the center shall be evaluated in five year intervals by a committee appointed by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The first evaluation shall be conducted in 1998. The evaluation committee shall assess the quality of the center's programs as well as the appropriateness of the funding process and of the budget. On the basis of its findings, the committee shall make a recommendation as to whether the center merits continuation. The committee shall include a faculty member from the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, one humanities faculty member at large, and one non-humanities member recognized for his or her humanistic interests. The committee shall select its own chairperson. No less than three months after its commissioning the committee shall submit a final report to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and to the Faculty Senate. This report may include whatever recommendations the committee deems appropriate.

5.39.10 The Humanities Center Executive Committee shall be the chief policy making body of the Center for the Humanities. It shall comprise six faculty members appointed on a staggered basis for three year terms by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The committee shall elect, with the concurrence of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, one of its members to serve as the director of the center. The director's term shall not exceed a period of three consecutive years.

**B. WRITING INTENSIVE COURSES (Senate Bills #95-96--7 and #95-96--18)**

1. The Constitution, By-Laws and University Manual Committee recommends the approval of the addition of the following new sections 8.81.40-8.81.43 to the UNIVERSITY MANUAL (existing section 8.81.40 renumbered as 8.81.35):

8.81.40 Writing Intensive Courses should provide the opportunity for an amount of writing which is significant by the standards of the disciplines in which they are taught; feedback and guidance from the instructor; and the possibility of writing in a variety of formats. Writing assignments in writing intensive courses should include drafting and revising of papers; should clearly define paper features, receive precise teacher responses, both positive and negative; and contain clear, consistent practices in the grading of writing. In such courses the writing assignments should constitute a significant portion of the overall grade. If possible such courses should include: peer

reviewing and other forms of collaborative learning; extensive student to student interaction as well as student-teacher interaction; opportunities for collaborative writing; and both informal and formal writing assignments. If possible upper level courses should include: a variety of professional writing assignments, such as patient charts or client reports, case studies; laboratory reports; reviews of research; critical essays; longer term papers; project proposals; a sustained attention to writing, perhaps of one longer assignment, that gives students time to fully explore a topic and to learn a wide range of relevant material and rhetoric, that encourages depth in the exploration and expression of ideas, that calls for extensive revision, and that is clearly addressed to an appropriate audience and context.

8.81.41 A "WI" label shall be appended to the course description of writing intensive courses to indicate that writing is a significant feature of the activities, learning processes, and assessment of student performance in the course. Lists of writing intensive courses (or sections of courses) shall appear in the UNIVERSITY BULLETIN, early registration and registration issues of the Schedule of Courses and in a yearly publication from the Faculty Institute on Writing.

8.81.42 The approval process for a writing intensive course shall be initiated by the faculty member sponsoring the course. Either new courses or redesigned existing courses may be proposed for the writing intensive (WI) designation. Following approval by the appropriate departments and colleges, proposals shall be sent to the Subcommittee on Student Writing, which shall make recommendations to the Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate. Curricular Affairs Committee action shall constitute the last step in the approval process as follows: if the approval pertains to a new WI course, that information will be published to the faculty and if there is no objection within 14 days of that publication, the label will be appended to the course description for two semesters' offering sometime during the two years subsequent to approval. If the approval pertains to a WI course that has been taught for two semesters, then the approval is final and the label may be permanently applied to that course at the request of the faculty member (in accordance with department procedures and scheduling). In those instances when the WI label is not recommended, the Subcommittee on Student Writing should make every effort to work with the faculty member to bring the course features in line with the accepted WI design so that a label may be granted. (See sections 4.85-87 of the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate, the charge to and membership of the Curricular Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Student Writing).

8.81.43 To assist faculty in developing WI courses and assignments, Writing Across the Curriculum Workshops shall be supported by the college deans and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Faculty who develop WI courses should receive recognition during annual review.