

5-8-1997

Report #1996-97-3 of the University College and General Education Committee on the Current General Education Program

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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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 #1996-97-3 of the University College and General Education Committee on the Current General Education Program 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 May 8, 1997.
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 29, 1997, 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 9, 1997
(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 _____.

5/20/97
(date)

Robert L. Carothers
President

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REPORT ON THE CURRENT GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
#1996-97-3

April 29, 1997

At the April 25, 1997 meeting of the University College and General Education Committee the following matters related to the current general education program were considered and are now presented to the Faculty Senate.

SECTION I: MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL

The University College and General Education Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate approve the following additions to the current General Education Program:

- a. That TMD 113, Color Science, be assigned into the Natural Sciences (N) area;
- b. That OCG 110, The Ocean Planet, be assigned into the Natural Sciences (N) area;
- c. That the following two topics under BIO 104, Topics in Biology with Lab, be assigned into the Natural Sciences (N) area:
 1. BIO 104A, Biology of Plants, (formerly BIO 101);
 2. BIO 104B, General Animal Biology, (formerly BIO 102).

* * * * *

SECTION II: INFORMATIONAL MATTERS

- A. URI 101: The UCGE Committee discussed the review of URI 101. Professor Kowalski reported that he had contacted one member of the faculty for help in evaluating the course and would probably get in touch with at least one more. It was agreed that a review and evaluation of the course could not be completed before the end of the semester. Professor Kowalski was directed to organize a group this summer to examine the existing data, plan for additional data gathering, and be ready to present any recommendations regarding URI 101 as well as plan for additional evaluation of URI 101 at the first UCGE Committee meeting in the fall.

In addition, Dean Strommer was asked to inform departments, especially those in the College of Arts and Sciences, that the UCGE Committee has directed the URI 101 Advisory Committee to be as flexible as possible and as sensitive as possible to their concerns in approving various topics under URI 101 for the fall semester.

B. General Education Issues: The members of the UCGE Committee reviewed and discussed a proposal to modify the present General Education English Communication Requirement. The proposal was presented as follow up and an alternative to the recently defeated General Education Plan. It was pointed out that the proposal (see below) had a number of potential advantages: it seriously addresses the educational issue of insuring that students receive additional writing instruction in content courses across the curriculum; it builds upon the present writing requirement and upon the existing system for identifying Writing Intensive (WI) courses; since it is not based on courses that add one additional credit, it does not require wholesale re-engineering of courses; since it is stated in terms of credit hours, it is compatible with 3 or 4 credit hour courses; it could be adjusted for phased implementation; it could serve as a model to address other skills related issues in general education.

Professor Kowalski indicated that he would further investigate the feasibility of implementing such a requirement during the summer and report back to the committee in the fall. The Committee, in turn, agreed that it might be useful to remark on the proposal in its report to the Senate.

A PROPOSAL Affecting the Writing Requirement in General Education

Part A: Present English Communication Requirement (retain)

Six credits in English Communication, at least three of which must be in a course designed specifically to improve written communication skills.

English Communication: Writing (Cw)--BGS 100; CMS 101; ELS 112, 122; ENG 103; HPR 112; WRT 101, 103, 123, 201, 227, 235, 301, 333. General (C)--CMS 101 and 103; HPR 111; PHL 101.

Part B: Add to existing Part A

In addition, students must take and pass at least twelve (12) credits in course sections labeled Writing Intensive (WI) beyond those used to satisfy Part A.

Courses used to satisfy Part B of the requirement may also be used to satisfy any other general education or concentration requirement.

Part C: Legislation to aid implementation

Each department and program at the University shall have (beginning September, 199X) at least one of their courses approved and designated Writing Intensive (WI). There is no limit to the number of courses that a department or program may submit or have approved as WI.