

1-28-1999

Academic Standards and Calendar Committee Report #1998-99-1: Sections 8.53.20-21 of the University Manual

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE


Serial Number #98-99--9

TO: President Robert L. Carothers

FROM: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Academic Standards and Calendar Committee Report
#1998-99-1: Sections 8.53.20-21 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 January 28, 1999.
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 18, 1999 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 29, 1999
(date)


Leland Jackson
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT


TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

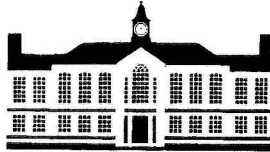
FROM: President of the University

Returned.

- a. Approved .
- b. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Governors ____.
- c. Disapproved ____.

2/1/99
(date)


President



UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island
FACULTY SENATE

**ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND CALENDAR COMMITTEE
REPORT #98-99-1
SECTIONS 8.53.20-21 OF THE UNIVERSITY MANUAL**

December 21, 1998

At the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee's meeting of December 7, 1998, the Committee considered changes to the UNIVERSITY MANUAL on the "incomplete" from the Registrar's Advisory Committee and now presents the following recommendations to the Faculty Senate for approval.

A. 8.53.20

The Academic Standards and Calendar Committee recommends that the first sentence of section 8.53.20 of the UNIVERSITY MANUAL be amended to read as follows (change is in **boldface**):

8.53.20 A student shall receive a report of "Incomplete" in any course in which the course work has been passing **up until the time of a documented precipitating incident or condition**, but has not been completed because of illness or another reason which in the opinion of the instructor justifies the report.

Rationale: The Registrar's Advisory Committee was concerned that the recent construing of UNIVERSITY MANUAL section 8.53.20 will penalize some students unfairly. Many reasons prevent students from requesting an incomplete at the time that their course participation ceases. Reasons include but are not limited to, physical illness, mental illness, accident, etc. It is extremely likely that, for good reason, students will be unable to request an incomplete until after substantial class time and/or work has been missed. Consequently, students' course work may no longer be considered passing at the time that they become either physically and/or emotionally able to request an incomplete. The Academic Standards and Calendar Committee agrees with the Registrar's Advisory Council that to penalize students in these circumstances would be an injustice.

B. 8.53.21

The Academic Standards and Calendar Committee recommends that the first sentence of section 8.53.21 of the UNIVERSITY MANUAL be amended by dividing it into two sentences to read as follows (change is in **boldface**):

8.53.21 The student receiving "Incomplete" shall make necessary arrangement with the instructor or, in the instructor's absence, with the instructor's chairperson to remove the deficiency. **This arrangement shall be made** prior to the following midsemester for the undergraduate student and within one calendar year for the graduate student.

Rationale: The Registrar's Advisory Council believes that the current wording of 8.53.21 lends itself to misinterpretation. This section now states that undergraduate students have until the following midsemester and graduate students have one year to arrange with an instructor to remove an incomplete. Undergraduate students have a maximum of two years and graduate students have three years before a grade change is not allowed. The Academic Standards and Calendar Committee agrees that the proposed amendment eliminates the possibility of misinterpretation.

Members of the Committee:

*L. Patrick Devlin, COM
Roberta Feather, NUR
Norman Finizio, MTH, Chair
Mary Kalymun, HDF,
Richard Lessman, MCE
Kenneth Rogers, LAN
Robert Strobel, *ex officio*
Amiee Cormier, undergraduate student
Todd Gwaltney, undergraduate student

*Senator, Fall 1998