

1-27-2000

## Academic Standards and Calendar Committee Report #99-00-1: Section 8.22.40 of the University Manual

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
FACULTY SENATE

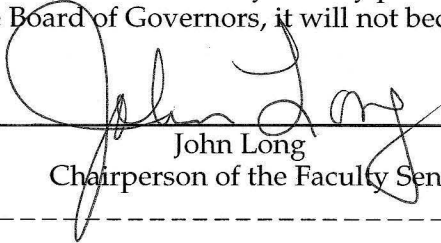
Serial Number #99-00--11

TO: President Robert L. Carothers

FROM: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Academic Standards and Calendar Committee Report #99-00-1: Section 8.22.40 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 27, 2000.
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 17, 2000 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 28, 2000  
(date)

  
John Long  
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

2/4/00  
(date)

  
President



UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode Island  
FACULTY SENATE

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND CALENDAR COMMITTEE  
REPORT#99-00-1  
Section 8.22.40 of the UNIVERSITY MANUAL  
December 9, 1999

At the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee's meeting of December 2, 1999, the Committee reconsidered the proposed change to section 8.22.40 of the UNIVERSITY MANUAL that had been referred back by the Faculty Senate on May 9, 1999 (Senate Action #98-99--8).

The Academic Standards and Calendar Committee now recommends that section 8.22.40 of the UNIVERSITY MANUAL be amended to read as follows (change is in *italics*):

**Proposed Change**

8.22.40 Distinction. Students who complete at least sixty (60) credits of their work at the University are eligible to graduate with honors. Grades in all courses attempted at the University shall be included in the calculation of the quality point average. *On the recommendation of the student's dean, an exception may be made for students who have been readmitted but have not used any of the prior work to satisfy the degree requirements...*

**Existing Section**

8.22.40 Distinction. Students who complete at least sixty (60) credits of their work at the University are eligible to graduate with honors. Grades in all courses attempted at the University shall be included in the calculation of the quality point average...

**Background and Rationale**

During the 1998-99 academic year, the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee received two separate requests with regard to section 8.22.40. Both Senator Peter August and Ombud Vincent Rose proposed that Deans be permitted to make an exception for the rare outstanding student who could graduate with highest distinction if credits earned more than a decade before readmission were not included in the calculation of the quality point average.

The Academic Standards and Calendar Committee's earlier recommendation to add a sentence to permit limited flexibility to Deans for calculating qpa's in exceptional cases was referred back to committee. The recommendation to modify 8.22.40 was prompted by a student who was dismissed and several years later was readmitted to another program. This student achieved a cumulative grade point average that justified the award of summa cum laude in the new program but did not qualify because of grades received previously

at the University. Had the student been dismissed from another institution the prior work would not been a factor.

After reconsideration during the fall semester, the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee now recommends wording to address only those cases where the student used no prior work for the degree awarded. If any previous work is used the previous grades would be included in the calculation of the average.

Members of the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee:

\*Peter August, NRS, (01)

\*Leo Carroll, SOC/APG, (01)

Roberta Feather, NUR, (00)

Richard Lessman, MCE, (00)

Kenneth Rogers, LAN, (00), Chairperson

\*Vincent Rose, CHE, (01)

Robert Strobel, ex officio

Stephanie Kauflin, undergraduate student, (00)