

2018

Academic Standards and Calendar Committee Report #2017-18-5, Report on request concerning Columbus Day

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "Academic Standards and Calendar Committee Report #2017-18-5, Report on request concerning Columbus Day" (2018). *Faculty Senate Bills*. Paper 2297.

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Serial Number #17-18-29B

TO: President David Dooley
FROM: Mark Conley, Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL titled, Academic Standards and Calendar Committee Report #2017-18-5, Report on request concerning Columbus Day, is forwarded for your consideration.
2. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on March 22, 2018.
3. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
4. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective April 12, 2018 three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; or (3) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum.

A 30-day time extension, from the date that the Senate Chair signed this bill, has been requested and confirmed (attached). Please indicate by May 10, 2018 your approval or disapproval or indicate a request for an additional extension of time beyond the thirty-day extension.



Mark Conley
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

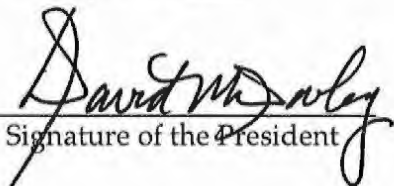
April 10, 2018

ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

- a. Approved ____.
- b. Approved subject to Notice of the Council on Postsecondary Education ____.
- c. Disapproved .



Signature of the President

May 2, 2018

(date)

Academic Standards and Calendar Committee

Report #5 March 22, 2018

1. Update on discussions related to the charge this committee was given at the 12/7/17 meeting of the Faculty Senate - to "consider all contingencies in removing references to Columbus Day from the academic calendar and replacing it with a reference to Indigenous People's Day and report on the matter at the March [22, 2018] Faculty Senate meeting."

Our committee broadly discussed this issue, attempted to identify some of the concerns, and brainstormed some options.

Q1. Can the University, as a state institution, officially change the name of a State and Federal Holiday on its official University Calendar?

- Title 16, Chapter 32, Section 10 of the State of Rhode Island General Laws (Award of degrees – Curriculum and government) states that "The board of trustees, with the approval of the president and a committee of the faculty of the university, shall award academic degrees and diplomas and confer honors in the same manner as is customary in American colleges. It shall also be the duty of the president and a committee of the faculty, with the approval of the board of governors for higher education, to arrange courses of study conforming to all acts of Congress, and prescribe any qualifications for the admission of students and any rules of study, exercise, discipline, and government as the president and committee may deem proper. "
- The Constitution of the Faculty Senate (Appendix B of the University Manual) states that "...It [Faculty Senate] shall, with the concurrence of the President, formulate policy concerning teaching and research, study, exercise, discipline and government: for example, and without excluding others not listed, academic standards (scholastic standing, admission and dismissal policy, class attendance, grading systems, etc.), the University calendar, University-wide curriculum matters both graduate and undergraduate, and research and patent policy as they may affect the faculty as a whole."
- Committee has spoken to a faculty member with knowledge on this issue, to the Provost's office, and has contacted Peter Harrington, Assistant Legal Counsel to the University. This matter is on Mr. Harrington's agenda for his March 19, 2018 staff meeting.

Q2. If a change in name is possible, what are the implications to the administrative staff and union contracts that reference "Columbus Day"?

- The following unions use "Columbus Day" in their contracts. Members are State employees.
 - o Council 94

- Educational Support Professionals (ESP)
 - UNAP (United Nurses and Allied Professionals)
 - Physicians Association
 - Professional Staff Association (PSA)
 - Professional Technical and Administrative Association (PTAA)
 - Maritime Professional Association
- The following do not. Members work for the Board
 - Graduate Assistants United (GAU)
 - AAUP/URI (uses "official State Holiday" in some places)
 - AAUP/PTFU (Part-Time faculty)

Q3. What are other institutions in the Rhode Island system doing?

- RIC refers to it as "Columbus Day"
- CCRI in Fall 2016 referred to it as "Columbus Day" and in Fall 2017 as "Holiday". We contacted the Director of Records at CCRI and she stated that there was no process that she can recollect that resulted in the change of name. She spot checked some past calendars and noted that both names were used interchangeably. There is currently no discussion at CCRI to officially remove reference to Columbus Day.

Conclusion to date: The academic calendar is under the jurisdiction of the Faculty Senate with approval from the President. However, the administrative holiday is governed by the State and its name cannot be altered.

Possible Options:

- Option 1:** Maintain two different University calendars – one for administration/staff/contracts and one for students (academic)
- Option 2:** Retain one University calendar but refer to the holiday as "Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day". Classes are usually held on Columbus Day with offices closed.
- Option 3:** Rename the Wednesday before Thanksgiving "Indigenous Peoples' Day". Classes are often cancelled on this day with offices open.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Burkhardt , Mayrai Gindy, Jessica L. Goren, Anthony Mallilo, Ro Percy, Robert Schwegler, and Kelly Watka

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Meeting

March 22, 2018

MOTION PASSED: to change the name of Columbus Day on all [URI] calendars and replace it with Indigenous People's Day.

FACULTY SENATE

Green Hall, 35 Campus Avenue, Kingston, RI 02881 USA p: 401.874.2616 f: 401.874.2809 uri.edu/facsen



TO: David Dooley, President

FROM: Nancy Neff, Coordinator, Faculty Senate *Nancy Neff*

DATE: April 10, 2018

SUBJECT: 30-Day Extension of Time of Approval of Senate Bill# 17-18-29B

I write to confirm your request of a 30-day extension of time (from today) to approve or disapprove Senate Bill# 17-18-29B, Academic Standards and Calendar Committee Report #2017-18-5, Academic Calendar: Columbus Day. Discussions about the intent of a motion made from the floor of the Senate on March 22, 2018 and its bearing on this portion of the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee Report #2017-18-5 are ongoing. It is hoped that all concerns can be addressed by May 10, 2018.

Thank you.

Cc: Louis Saccoccio, General Counsel
Donald DeHayes, Provost
Laura Beauvais, Vice Provost
Members, Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Senator Mayrai Gindy, Chair, Academic Standards and Calendar Committee