A resolution recommending that consideration be given to increasing the number of convocation programs (Report of Special Committee to Evaluate the Freshman Orientation Program, Recommendations of Group II).

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Recommended Citation
University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "A resolution recommending that consideration be given to increasing the number of convocation programs (Report of Special Committee to Evaluate the Freshman Orientation Program, Recommendations of Group II)." (1964). Faculty Senate Bills. Paper 206.
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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE

Transmittal Form for Bills Approved by the Faculty Senate

From: The Chairman, Faculty Senate
To: The President, Dr. Francis H. Horn
Enclosure

1. The attached bill, entitled A resolution recommending that consideration be
given to increasing the number of convocation programs (Report of Special
Committee to Evaluate the Freshman Orientation Program, Recommendations of Group II)
is hereby forwarded to you for your consideration.

2. The official original and two copies for your use are attached.

3. This resolution was approved by vote of the Faculty Senate on April 23, 1964.

4. After your consideration, will you kindly indicate your approval or disapproval,
as appropriate, and return it, completing the appropriate endorsement below.

   April 27, 1964
   (Signature) Chairman, Faculty Senate

Alternate Endorsement 1.

From: The President, University of Rhode Island
To: The Chairman, Faculty Senate

1. Returned.
2. Approved X. Disapproved ____.
3. (If approved) In my opinion, transmittal to the Board of Trustees would not
   be desired by the Board and is unnecessary.

   May 13, 1964
   (Signature) President, University of R. I.

Received May 14, 1964
   (Signature) Chairman, Faculty Senate

Original forwarded to Secretary of the Senate and Registrar, E. Farrell, for filing
in the archives of the University.

May 14, 1964
   (Signature) Chairman, Faculty Senate
II. Remarks Related to Recommendations, Group II.

The Committee would, however, like to make some further observations:

It is felt that a well-planned convocation series can make an important contribution to student growth, in terms of placing the college experience in clearer perspective, broadening the students' understanding of their responsibilities, and facilitating an examination of the complexities of life, as related to the students' educational role and to their post-college place in society.

These educational experiences are not readily attainable in the classroom. The embellishments provided by a convocation series should help students to attach greater significance to their academic work and to promote greater incentive to get the most out of college.

As indicated in the earlier-mentioned survey evaluation, students are receptive to convocations. They respond to capable and notable speakers and famous personages. They appreciate horizon-broadening programs, especially if they are well presented.

The University presently lacks any University-wide forums, except one or two convocations per year. More would be well received, it is felt.

There are many capable people on campus who could present excellent programs on topics of timely interest, that should be made available to broader audiences than are reached in their formal courses.

Many excellent speakers and notable personages have been brought to the campus in recent years, in connection with the programs of Visiting Scholars and Honors Colloquium. These people often speak to small audiences and are brought to the campus at considerable expense.

Based on the above considerations, the Committee proposes the following recommendations:

1. That more frequent convocations be held.
2. That these programs be coordinated with the Visiting Scholars Program and, if practicable, with visits of Honors Colloquium speakers.
3. Attendance should be voluntary, except that each freshman be required to attend at least half of the convocations during each semester.
4. The Thursday 1:00-2:00 P.M. period be kept free of classes to accommodate convocations, curriculum-connected meetings, college orientation efforts and faculty meetings.

The present committee has given some thought to means of implementing a convocation plan that might prove successful. In the opinion of the committee, the following features might prove of benefit:

1. Implementation should be a joint administration-faculty effort, with executive capacity vested in an administrative officer
or other permanent or semi-permanent office.

2. A single person should have prime responsibility, both as executive and chairman of any advisory group that might be involved in planning and/or execution.

3. The chairman should have the benefit of advice and assistance from certain others that might well include:
   a) Faculty members representing a diversity of disciplines and fields of interest.
   b) A representative of the Honors Colloquium Committee or the coordinator of the Honors Program.
   c) A representative of the Visiting Scholars' Committee.
   d) Student representation (perhaps member-at-large of the Student Senate and President of the Freshman class.)
   e) Representative of Personnel Services Division.
   f) Representative of performing arts group or groups (e.g. music, drama.)
   g) The Dean of Students.

4. There should be a broad flexibility in selection of programs, but we suggest some types that might prove successful, e.g., visits of noteworthy persons, speakers on current events, modern trends and recent developments in various intellectual disciplines, items of current campus interest and importance, exhibition of campus performing artists and visiting artists (drama, music, dance, debate), repetitive annual events (Honors Day awards, Honors Lectureship.) Items of interest and emphasis in particular years (e.g. Civil War Centennial, Darwin's centennial), outstanding faculty speakers who ordinarily reach only a small audience in their classes. Not the least, a more frequent opportunity for the President to speak to a large student group might prove beneficial.

5. Regarding finances, it might be possible to operate such a program without additional expense by making use of visitors coming to campus in connection with other programs already subsidized by University funds.

Respectfully submitted,

Boris C. Bell
George E. Osborne
Robert W. Harrison, Chairman