1965

ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS -- EXCUSES FOR ABSENCES DUE TO ILLNESS

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, 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 ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS -- EXCUSES FOR ABSENCES DUE TO ILLNESS is hereby forwarded to you for your consideration.

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

3. This bill was approved by vote of the Faculty Senate on January 28, 1965.

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

February 3, 1965
(date) Senate.

Endorsement 1.

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

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

(date) Senate.

Original forwarded to Secretary of the Senate and Registrar, E. Farrell, for filing in the archives of the University.
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Faculty Senate

Report of the Executive Committee

January 14, 1965

Regarding issuance of excuses for absences due to illness.

References: a) Univ. Manual, 7th ed. (printed), Ch. 6, 1.06.3 (page 57)
           b) Univ. Manual, Ch. 2, 2.25.3 (page 12)
           c) Fac. Senate Bill Serial No. 4, Meeting of October 10, 1963.

It is recommended that the first paragraph of section 1.06.3 of chapter 6,
page 12 of the Univ. Manual be changed to read as follows (changed portions
underlined):

"Attendance at all classes is generally obligatory. Only the Dean of
Students shall grant excuses to men and women covering absences because
of authorized off-campus trips and, on the advice of the Medical Director,
because of illness diagnosed and/or treated at the University Infirmary.
Such excuses shall be secured by the student and presented to the appro-
priate instructor within one week of the student's return to campus; excuses
so processed must be honored by the instructor when presented. Requests
for excuses, on claim of illness, not originating in the University Infirmary
may, but need not, be honored by instructors."

Reasons for the recommendation:

1. In our opinion decisions about whether a student is sufficiently ill
to justify absence from class should be made by medical personnel i.e.,
ordinarily a physician. This point seems to be clearly established by
ref. a.

2. We believe University Infirmary medical personnel should be the ones to
authorize or decline to authorize excuses for absences by reason of ill-
ness in all cases in which the condition of the student's health is
known to Infirmary personnel by virtue of their illness having been
diagnosed at the Infirmary as well as by virtue of their having been
admitted and treated at the Infirmary. Present practice is for the
Medical Director or his staff to authorize excuses only when a student
has been admitted and treated at the Infirmary. When a student is found
to be ill and advised to remain at home for treatment, the Infirmary
does not authorize excuses; the instructor is, then, forced to decide,
without adequate knowledge, whether the student will be entitled to
make-up privileges. In a large class this imposes a heavy burden on
the instructor.

3. The addition of the new last sentence of the paragraph is for clarifica-
tion and we hope it also will encourage all students who are ill to report
to the University Infirmary.