A Statement Concerning the Budget Reduction for Transmittal to the President and the Board of Trustees

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE

RESOLUTION

Approved by the Faculty Senate

TO: President Francis H. Horn

FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached RESOLUTION, titled "A Statement Concerning the Budget Reduction for Transmittal to the President and the Board of Trustees"

is forwarded for your consideration.

2. The original and two copies for your use are included.

3. This RESOLUTION was approved by vote of the Faculty Senate on

   March 16, 1967

   (date)

4. After considering this resolution, will you please indicate your approval, disapproval or other comment and return the original copy, completing the endorsement below.

   March 28, 1967

   (date)

   William R. Ferrante /s/
   Chairman of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate
FROM: The University President

1. Returned.

2. Approved X. Disapproved _____ Other (explanation attached) _____

   January 5, 1967

   (date)

   Francis W. Horn /s/
   President

Original received and forwarded to the Secretary of the Senate and Registrar for filing in the Archives of the University.

   (date)

   Chairman of the Faculty Senate

Form approved 11/65
A Statement concerning Budget Reduction prepared by the
Faculty Senate Executive Committee and approved by the Faculty Senate.

To: President Horn and the Board of Trustees of State Colleges.

This will express the appreciation of the University of Rhode Island Faculty to the Board of Trustees of State Colleges for their initiating a request that the reduction in the asking budget for 1967-68 be restored. The U.R.I. Faculty urges that vigorous action be continued to pursue this matter and to bring information before the legislature that will demonstrate the harm to publicly supported higher education in Rhode Island that can come from reduction in the financial support that has been anticipated for 1967-68.

A university must have a reason for being. Once it is established that such an organization is desirable, then plans must be made in a logical, orderly sequence in order to assure that the goals that have been agreed upon will have some degree of fulfillment.

The university administration, and the faculty in concert must plan ahead in order to meet the various goals agreed upon by the Board of Trustees and the State of Rhode Island.

The record shows that the major goal at U.R.I. has been stated to provide as high a quality education as possible to qualified students. The record also shows that we are committed to offer educational opportunities to as many applicants who are qualified as possible.

In order to carry out the first of these laudable functions, we must become involved in attracting and keeping the highest qualified faculty possible. We must also provide them with the necessary space, equipment and tools to do the job.

In order to accommodate more students we necessarily must build more facilities for housing, for study, for classrooms, for laboratories, etc. Thus, we must increase the necessary supplies to prevent deterioration of accepted programs. All of this, of course, would be useless without an actual increase in the qualified faculty.

Then most importantly, an active university is constantly studying ways of improving its offerings in terms of actual course content, manner of presentation, etc. Thus, new programs are developed to add to or to substitute for some of the ongoing programs that have become or are becoming obsolete.

Providing we agree on certain of these principles, it becomes obvious that in order to achieve these goals, certain practical aspects must be considered. To put it bluntly, to prevent deterioration, to prevent remaining static, in short to move ahead properly, the university must have, as any active organization must, the financial resources to accomplish what is necessary.
The first step in the process must necessarily originate at the level closest to the student body. This is the department and its faculty. Based on their developing programs, on facts submitted by the administration concerning future student enrollments, etc., the departments must formulate a budget to attempt to carry out their part of the goals as accepted by the College, the University, the Trustees and the State. All of this must be carefully studied and prepared in advance.

The Colleges then study their collective budgets, present them to the administration who then carry them through to the source of funds via the Trustees.

The Budget is composed of figures necessary to maintain present services, both for personnel and buildings, as well as figures to maintain ongoing programs. These amounts of money must also reflect the normal increase in cost of these services year to year. Then the budget should and does include certain amounts to represent normal growth and replacement. New programs must then be provided with all the necessary supplies, faculty, and facilities as required. Thus the university attempts to fulfill its role.

When the university is then informed that the total budget must be reduced, the problem very quickly reverts to each department.

The Budget, as used at U.R.I., is composed of various parts. The major groups are: Personal Services, Operating Supplies and Expenses, Capital Outlay. Where then can reductions be made in keeping with the immediate and long range goals?

It becomes apparent very quickly that the only money that can be reduced involves new money such as for Capital Outlay, Operating Supplies and Expenses, and Increases in Salary for Personal Services.

Reducing capital outlay will in many instances prevent upgrading of existing programs, prevent institution of newer presentations scheduled for the following year and thus place a brake on the orderly development of the University. It also prevents purchase of equipment necessary to supply the increased numbers of students admitted. Capital outlay can be reduced only after careful study of each department's problems. It must not be a blanket reduction. The operating supplies are necessary for carrying out the many day to day aspects of a coordinated program. Here the cost goes up due to normal increases in prices of items even though no additional students are added to a particular offering.

Then there is the problem of cutting into the salary increases of the various personnel of the University. In today's market of stiff competition for the best qualified people, it should be painfully apparent that the income offered to these people must be equal to and even greater than that offered by others who really want their services. Otherwise the organization must face the loss of many of their best people.
Postponement of the addition of necessary faculty without also reducing the student population will necessarily increase the burden on those already on the staff. It will also mean postponement of such programs as the General Education offerings as accepted by the U.R.I. and its Trustees.

Faculty salaries have been under discussion for years. Programs for betterment of salaries which have been low, have been presented by faculty and administration and accepted by the Board of Trustees. Faculty have been informed of these plans, thus allowing them to formulate their own plans for employment. In many cases, the faculty members have decided to stay because of the improvements of their income that were promised. Thus, reduction of this part of the budget will undo all the good that has developed. The morale in many cases will be endangered and this is never conducive to a stimulating intellectual experience that is desirable on a University Campus.

In conclusion, we feel that once the University has decided on what it needs to accomplish its goals, it must present these needs and defend them vigorously. Only thus can it carry out its intended role in Society.