1967

Letter from Professor William Ferrante to Professor John Kupa regarding the Athletic Council

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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August 7, 1967

Professor John Kupa
Chairman, Faculty Senate
Woodward Hall
Campus

Dear John:

The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of May 22, 1967 (adjourned meeting of May 18) contain the following entry on page 10:

"Professor Harrison made a motion to refer recommendation No. 2 to a special committee to further study the matter and bring a recommendation to the senate. The motion was carried."

Bob Harrison's motion refers to the recommendation (No. 2) of the Senate Executive Committee relative to the Athletic Council which defines the powers and duties of the Council and specifies what action must be taken if the Council and the President cannot reach agreement. The minutes of the May 25, 1967 meeting show on page 1 that I announced the appointment of all the members of the past Executive Committee to the special committee. Although the Senate approved the appointing of the special committee, the membership of the committee has not been brought before the committee for their consent.

Relative to this I would like to suggest that when you and the Executive Committee consider committee appointments you also consider the makeup of this special committee. Last year, the Executive Committee spent many, many hours discussing the recommendation in question. We had separate meetings with (1) the faculty members of the Athletic Council, (2) Mr. Zarchen, (3) Vice President Quinn, (4) the Alumni members of the Council with Tom Falciglia and the Alumni President, and in addition we had many other consultations by phone, mail and private talks. Since the matter has not yet been resolved and it is so important, I believe it would be a good idea to augment last year's Executive Committee with a few more people, preferably from the present Executive Committee. Further, I think it would be a good idea if one of your Executive Committee served as Chairman.
The issue is a fundamental one and it is of extreme importance. It would take many pages of writing to explain the details and implications. Essentially it is a question of who has the ultimate responsibility and authority for intercollegiate athletics at U.R.I. There is no question that the Alumni members feel that the Council operates outside any University structure and is responsible solely to the Board of Trustees. We feel this is contrary to State Law and is a usurpation of the responsibility of the faculty.

When we were ready to bring this to the Senate for a vote we recognized the extreme opposition of Mr. Zarchen and Vice President Quinn. Further, it was evident that some faculty and student members of the Council opposed the plan simply because they did not understand the responsibilities of the faculty as defined in the State Law and they did not understand what we were trying to accomplish. Hence, we asked that this particular issue be referred to a special committee so that the basis for the recommendation could be thoroughly explored and explained to all concerned before bringing it to a vote on the Senate floor. This now is the responsibility of the special committee.

My explanation of this matter may not be very clear. If you have any questions, please call me and I will be happy to give you all the information I can.

Sincerely,

Bill

William R. Ferrante
Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics

WRF:elf

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AUG 9 1967
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE
University of Rhode Island
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. William R. Ferrante
FROM: Professor John Kupa, Chairman, Faculty Senate

DATE: August 18, 1967

Your letter explaining the background and position of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee of last year regarding the powers and duties of the Athletic Council is very clear. I would like you to know that the present Executive Committee of the Senate will consider your recommendations concerning this matter at their August 24 meeting.

jjk/l1w