1969

April 1969 Senate Revisions: Intellectual Opportunity Plan

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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TO: President Werner A. Baum

FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate


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

3. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on April 24, 1969.

4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Trustees, completing the appropriate endorsement below.

5. In accordance with Section 8, paragraph 2 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective on May 15, 1969, three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Trustees for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Trustees, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

1. Returned.


3. (If approved) In my opinion, transmittal to the Board of Trustees is not necessary.

(4/30/69)

Presidential Approval
ALTERNATE ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded.
2. Approved.

   (date)                                        /s/ President

ENDORSEMENT 2.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Chairman of the Board of Trustees, via the University President.

1. Forwarded.

   (date)                                        /s/

   (Office)

ENDORSEMENT 3.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

   (date)                                        /s/ President

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

   (date)                                        /s/ Chairman of the Faculty Senate
REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE
ON
REVISIONS IN THE INTELLECTUAL OPPORTUNITY PLAN

Under the present requirements of the Intellectual Opportunity Plan all upper classmen, not on probation, are permitted to elect one "P/F course" per semester with a maximum of 6 courses. Only courses which are considered free and unattached electives may be selected. However, other courses may be allowed to come under this plan on the vote of both the college faculty and the Faculty Senate.

The Academic Standards Committee recommends that these requirements be liberalized, especially for students with an average of B- (QPA 2.67) or better.

The Academic Standards Committee recommends:

1. That students with a cumulative average of B- or better be allowed to take up to three "P/F" courses in any one semester. The number of free and unattached electives is usually limited and it is sometimes convenient for a student to schedule more than one of these in a given semester. This change would allow a student more flexibility in his scheduling without losing the opportunity of taking eligible courses on the Pass-Fail Option. The requirement of a B- average is recommended since it is believed that these students would not use the Intellectual Opportunity Plan as a means of keeping out of scholastic difficulty. Even if such a student were to do only "D" level work in all of the P/F courses he takes, his overall performance would still be well above the minimum required. This can be illustrated by the following hypothetical example.

Total Credits = 130
Credits taken in regular courses = 85
*Credits taken on P/F = 45

Rating of overall performance
Quality points, regular courses, 85 (2.67) = 227
Quality points, P/F courses assuming
D grade work in all, 45 (1.0) = 45
Total QP's = 272

Equivalent PQ average = 272 / 130 = 2.09

2. The overall limit of 6 courses taken as P/F be dropped. The committee saw no need for this requirement.

3. The third recommendation is concerned with courses that are taken above the degree requirement of the student. Often students take extra courses. Sometimes these are in areas in which the student has an interest but does not have a place for the courses in his curriculum. Occasionally the student finds that he has an extremely light load if he takes only his required courses, and he would like to broaden his education by taking extra courses. For example, a student in his last semester may need only 3 credits to complete the degree requirements. The Academic Standards Committee recommends that all such extra courses may be taken on the P/F basis.

* Note: 15 courses or 45 credits would be an unusually high number of free unattached electives for a student to have.
Recommendations:

The Intellectual Opportunity Plan be revised to the following: (Recommended changes or additions are underlined).

### 7.7 Intellectual Opportunity Plan (Pass-Fail Option)

7.7.1 A student satisfactorily completing a course under the regulations of this plan will receive a grade of S (satisfactory); unsatisfactory completion of a course will result in the student receiving the U grade (unsatisfactory).

7.7.2 A student receiving the S grade will receive credit toward fulfillment of degree requirements, but the grade of S will not be used in calculating the student's quality point average.

7.7.3 A student receiving the U grade will receive no credit toward degree requirements and must include the U (which is equivalent to the F of failing grade) in calculation of his quality point average.

7.7.4 Courses that are stipulated in the student's curriculum as degree requirements cannot be taken for S/U credit. The intellectual opportunity plan pertains only to those courses that are considered as free, unattached electives (with the exception of Military Science) by the college in which the student is enrolled. In addition, any course above the credits required for graduation may be taken as S/U. A college may, however, by a vote of the college faculty, permit other courses to come under this plan for students enrolled in that college. This vote must be confirmed by the Senate via the Committee on Curricular Affairs.

7.7.5 With the exception of freshmen and students who are on probation, all matriculated undergraduate students at the University of Rhode Island and the Division of University Extension may participate.

7.7.6 Students may elect up to 3 S/U courses per semester. Students may elect 2 S/U courses during a calendar summer.

7.7.7 A student choosing to take a course for S/U credit must notify his advisor and academic dean and inform the Registrar's Office of his intention to do so, in writing, prior to the end of the add period of each semester. A student may not exercise this option after this time.

7.7.8 The instructor is not to be informed of the S/U status of the student. Such a student will be graded by the instructor in the same manner as all other students and the registrar will convert all grades to S or U.

David Camp
Edmund J. Farrell
Marion Fry
Clarence Goertmiller
Stephen Schwarz
Sidney White
Ferdinand Votta, Jr., Chairman