1978


University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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TO: President Frank Newman

FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled __Research Policy and Facilities Committee Final Report - 1976-77: Sections 8.65.10 - 8.65.12 of the University Manual___ is forwarded for your consideration.

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

3. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on __October 13, 1978__.

4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Regents, 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 25, 1978__ (date), 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 Regents for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Regents, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

   __May 5, 1978__

   Robert M. Gutchen
   Chairman of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

1. Returned.

2. Approved ________  Disapproved ________.

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

   __5/4/78__

   President

* Held until approval of Annual Program Review on May 4, 1978

** Three weeks after May 4, 1978

Form revised 6/77
ALTERNATE ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Board of Regents
FROM: The University President
1. Forwarded.
2. Approved.

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(date) 
President

ENDORSEMENT 2.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Chairman of the Board of Regents, via the University President.
1. Forwarded.

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(date) 
(Office)

ENDORSEMENT 3.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate
FROM: The University President
1. Forwarded from the Chairman of the Board of Regents.

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(date) 
President

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

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(date) 
Chairman of the Faculty Senate
The Research Policy and Facilities Committee unanimously supports the concept of "centers" (includes institutes and bureaus as defined below). Centers can provide a visible vehicle for inter-disciplinary research and, accordingly, strengthen the grantsmanship of the contributing departments and investigators.

Overall, three characteristics make centers highly desirable. First, they provide visibility for the investigator and the university. Such visibility is extremely important for the procurement of funds by the novice investigator who has not yet developed a research name. Similarly, visibility of a "center of excellence" adds prestige to the reputation of the University and enhances its chances for competitive grants. Second, centers have an interdisciplinary approach, and, therefore, they present an opportunity for investigators housed in departments where research funds are normally very difficult to procure, to associate with other researchers in departments with more available funding sources. In addition, the interdisciplinary approach is highly desirable for dealing with complex research problems. Third, centers can provide both new and veteran researchers with advice and guidance and accordingly improve their chances for successful grantsmanship. Help in writing, identifying appropriate funding agencies and supplying "seed money" for future grants are all admirable characteristics of centers.

Short and long range implications of centers are very difficult to predict. Initially, funding and facilities are problems to be reconciled during periods of "zero base and tight" budgeting. The issue of funding and facilities are still problems after centers are firmly established. Non-successful centers should be quickly terminated. Expansion of successful centers must be controlled and policies need to be clarified for the distribution and use of overhead funds as well as the establishment of research and teaching priorities.

The Research Policy and Facilities Committee has examined the interaction between centers and contributing disciplines with regard to research, teaching and service. Although occasional problems might exist, center-oriented research and discipline-oriented research appear to be compatible as long as the individual investigators use the "team" approach to center research. Center directors must be responsible for maintaining disciplinary integrity in inter-disciplinary research. Problems are likely to arise when one researcher encroaches upon the discipline territory of another investigator. Center service and discipline-oriented service are areas where a minimum of conflict will occur.

Interaction between center and discipline-oriented teaching is very difficult to assess and requires close cooperation, clear-cut, well-defined policies and guidelines between the center and the appropriate department. The opinion that research has close ties with instructional activities has been stated frequently by members of the University administration. Centers will come forth with symposiums, seminars and workshops. It is well within the realm of the future to have center-oriented academic programs develop. Some of the problems which will have to be faced will be the priority of discipline-oriented courses, the academic integrity of inter-disciplinary subjects, as well as overall programs, and the teaching assignments of the contributing investigators. Needless to say, such academic programs and courses are subject to approval by the Curricular Affairs Committee.

The Research Policy and Facilities Committee recommends the addition of the following new sections 8.65.10-8.65.13 to the University Manual:

8.65.10 Centers, including institutes and bureaus, shall provide interdisciplinary coordination either within a college or across college lines directed at an issue beyond the scope of a single discipline. They may comprise many different disciplines or they may be single discipline based with secondary emphasis on contributing disciplines. The principal function shall be generally research oriented, however, in some instances, their missions may include instruction and/or service as components of equal importance.

8.65.11 Procedures for the Establishment of Centers, Institutes and Bureaus. All centers, institutes and bureaus shall originate with and be subject to approval by the faculties representing the disciplines concerned and shall be subject to approval of the appropriate college(s). Following college approval, proposals for the creation of centers, institutes or bureaus shall be forwarded to the Faculty Senate Research Policy and Facilities Committee for consideration.

8.65.12 New centers, institutes or bureaus shall be considered as individual entities and not tied to the demise or expansion of other centers. Proposals for the creation of new centers, institutes and bureaus shall include a general explanation of the goals of the center, a rationale for the center and a general description of its relationship to other appropriate units of the University. The proposal shall further include a budget with personnel and space requirements, as well as amount and source of seed money. In addition, procedures for the termination or assumption of full fiscal responsibilities by the University shall be included in the proposal.

Where consensus cannot be obtained within or among the colleges or disciplines, the Faculty Senate Research Policy and Facilities Committee shall report the situation to the Faculty Senate for resolution.