Research Policy and Facilities Committee Report 94-95-2: Proposal for the Establishment of a Coastal Institute at the University of Rhode Island

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE

BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

TO: President Robert L. Carothers

FROM: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Research Policy and Facilities Committee Report 94-95-2: Proposal for the Establishment of a Coastal Institute at the University of Rhode Island 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 _____________.

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

5. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective _____________, 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 Governors for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Governors, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

Barbara F. Luebke
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

Returned.

a. Approved ___.

b. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Governors ___.

c. Disapproved ___.

(date) President

Form revised 9/91
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE
RESEARCH POLICY AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE
REPORT 94-95-2
PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A COASTAL INSTITUTE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
April 28, 1995

In a process extending over several meetings this spring, the Research Policy and Facilities Committee (REPOFAC) has reviewed "A Proposal to Establish a Coastal Institute at the University of Rhode Island" submitted by Dean Margaret Leinen, Vice Provost for Marine Programs, on behalf of faculty and researchers from five colleges at the University, the State of Rhode Island’s Department of Environmental Management and Coastal Resources Management Council, and the Federal Government’s Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and National Biological Survey.

At its meeting of April 25, 1995, REPOFAC voted unanimously to approve this proposal, a copy of which appears below.

Since the funding for the Coastal Institute will come entirely through "reprogramming" existing funds available to the Vice Provost for Marine Programs, according to a recently clarified interpretation of University Manual sections 8.90.22 and 8.85.24, REPOFAC is authorized to act on behalf of the Senate in approving this proposal and is hereby reporting its action as a matter of information to the Senate. (However, since the clarification of the relevant manual sections occurred through actions taken at the Faculty Senate meeting of Thursday, April 27, 1995, the Research Policy and Facilities Committee will, in this case, move a recommendation that the entire Senate approve this proposal if the Senate deems it advisable.)

Sandy J. Hicks
Linda A. Hufnagel
James J. Rowlanski, Chairman
Allen G. Lindgren
John T. Merrill
Mark J. Rowinski

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A COASTAL INSTITUTE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name of Institution: University of Rhode Island

2. Department, division, school or organization involved:

The Fellows of the Coastal Institute will come from all University colleges, schools and divisions that have marine programs, as well as colleges and schools without formal marine programs but with faculty interested in marine research and service. In addition the Coastal Institute will have a formal relationship with the State’s Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC), as well as the three divisions of the Federal Government with strong marine programs, housed at the University, namely the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Biological Survey National Park Service unit (NPS/NBS).

The Fellows of the Coastal Institute are its life blood. They are drawn from the marine faculty and senior staff of the University of Rhode Island, from qualified federal research scientists and practitioners housed at the University and from qualified scientists and practitioners from the State’s Department of Environmental Management and the Coastal Resources Management Council. In addition, qualified scientists and practitioners from other state and federal agencies and from private businesses or other entities may be appointed as Fellows of the Coastal Institute as deemed appropriate by the Director and Fellows.

3. Title of proposed organizational unit: Coastal Institute

4. Intended date of organizational change: January 1, 1995

5. Intended location of organizational unit: The administrative headquarters of the Coastal Institute will be in the Coastal Institute building on the University’s Narragansett Bay Campus in approving this proposal and is hereby reporting its action as a matter of information to the Senate. Additionally, additional administrative offices will be at the Coastal Institute building on the University’s main campus reflecting the University-wide nature of the Institute.

Administratively, the director of the Coastal Institute will report to the Vice Provost for Marine Programs. The Vice Provost shall chair a Coastal Institute Executive Board which will include five senior members (deans) of the University of Rhode Island, the head of DEM, CRMC and the senior member of NOAA, EPA, and NPS/NBS resident at URI.

6. Description of Institutional Review and Approval Process:

The Coastal Institute concept evolved from discussions and meetings carried out between faculty, staff and administrators of the University between 1987 and 1994. A formal Coastal Institute Organizing Committee was constituted by the Vice Provost for Marine Programs in 1990 and met during 1990 and 1991 to formulate and propose the rationale for the Institute, its goals, its structure and its financial support mechanism. Subcommittees of the main organizing committee discussed each of these issues. The Organizing Committee reported to the Vice Provost for Marine Programs and deans of Engineering, Arts and Sciences, and Resource Development several times.

The planning process was also aided by a day-long retreat at the Alton Jones campus of the University during the summer of 1991. That retreat included, in addition to the members of the organizing committee, members of the University...
administration and members of non-marine departments and colleges. At that meeting President Carothers indicated that the funding mechanism for the Coastal Institute would be internal (i.e. existing funds within the University and funds from overhead generated by the institute). This decision set the context for further discussions of funding and structure during the next year.

During 1993 the Vice Provost for Marine Programs appointed Emeritus Vice President John Knauss to develop a funding strategy for the Coastal Institute bearing in mind the decision to fund the Institute internally. The results of this study were reported to the members of the Coastal Institute Organizing Committee and to the deans of colleges with marine departments during August of 1993. This proposal was formulated from those recommendations, agreed to by the committee and the deans involved.

This proposal was held during academic year 93-94 while the Faculty Senate deliberated President Carothers proposals for a new undergraduate General Education curriculum and for research/education partnerships. After that discussion, it was clear that the Coastal Institute was a different type of organization, dedicated primarily to research and interaction with state and federal environmental agencies and that it would not replace, preclude, or preface the establishment of partnerships within the University.

This proposal was reviewed by all departments of the University that are primarily marine studies departments, including: Graduate School of Oceanography, Department of Ocean Engineering, Department of Marine Affairs, Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Veterinary Science. It has also been reviewed by several departments with extensive marine studies interests including the departments of: Zoology, Botany, Geology, Natural Resources Science.

This proposal has been reviewed by the deans of Oceanography, Resource Development, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, and Business, and by Provost Swan.

7. **Summary of Proposed organization change:** The organization is discussed in greater detail under Section C, Institutional Role. It requires the appointment of a Director for the Institute who reports to the Vice Provost for Marine Programs. The Director will manage any support staff who are necessary to fulfill the objectives of the Institute. The Director will also coordinate the activities of the Fellows of the Institute. The Coastal Institute will have no formal impact on any existing component or division of the University of Rhode Island; nor will it have any formal impact on the structure of those federal entities associated with the Coastal Institute, EPA, NOAA, or the NPS/NBS, or on the State's Department of Environmental Management or Coastal Resources Management Council.

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8. **Signature of the President:**

Robert L. Carothers

9. **Person to be contacted during review:**

Professor Margaret Leinen
Vice Provost Marine Programs
792-6222

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**B. RATIONALE**

The challenge: The social and environmental problems of the world's coastal regions are perhaps the most complicated on this planet. Nowhere is the interaction of land, atmosphere, and ocean more profound; nowhere do the intricate transportation networks of natural and human systems intermingle more completely; nowhere is the combined metabolism of nature, human population, and of technology and industry greater.

Such complexity at a high level of organization makes it impossible to understand or manage the social and environmental problems of coastal systems within the limits of traditional academic disciplines or departments. For example, the question of copper pollution in Narragansett Bay cannot be addressed simply on the basis of a knowledge of the chemistry of the element. Copper enters the bay because of market demands for products that contain the element. Varying amounts of copper are lost during manufacture depending on the technology used in production and waste treatment. The choice of technology is dependent upon engineering capability, the business climate, social pressure, economic incentives and regulatory requirements. Once emitted by a manufacturing plant, the copper may move toward the bay in the atmosphere and by fresh water run-off, and it will fall from the atmosphere onto landscapes that will markedly influence its progress toward the bay. Once in the bay the copper will behave differently depending on the chemistry of the water and its biota as well as the nature of the sediments suspended in the water and on the bottom. The copper will be mixed, diluted and distributed around the bay by tides and currents, and its effect on living organisms will be governed by a host of complex biological and chemical conditions.

The opportunity: Rhode Island is a coastal state, perhaps more than any other. It can indeed be described as "Narragansett Bay, surrounded by a little bit of land." The University has over the years built an impressive array of expertise in coastal issues. This expertise can be found on the Narragansett Bay Campus and in many departments and several colleges at Kingston. Furthermore, the University is perhaps unique in having on its campuses three quite different federal research communities closely associated with coastal issues. Cooperation between the University and these groups is good, and recent legislation which assigns particular responsibility for coastal issues to the EPA and NOAA facilities on the URI campus provides a special opportunity for
further cooperation. Finally, the level of cooperation between
the University and state agencies such as DEM and CRMC is better
than that found in most states.

The tradition: Twenty-five years ago URI's broad approach to
marine issues (which ranged from oceanography, to fisheries, to
marine resource economics, to the law of the sea, to ocean
engineering, to marine affairs) was this nation’s prototype for
the development of Sea Grant institutions.

The University of Rhode Island is still a leader, but we are no
longer unique. Establishing a successful Coastal Institute with
the state, the University and three federal agencies as partners
again provides an opportunity for the University of Rhode Island
to break new ground. The challenge of coastal issues begs for
holistic approaches. A "joint coastal institute" offers an
opportunity to develop such programs.

C. INSTITUTIONAL ROLE

The institutional role of the Coastal Institute can best be
described in terms of its geographic range, its intellectual
scope and variety of activities and its formal structure.

1. The geographic range of the Coastal Institute will extend
inland to include activities within a watershed that
directly impact coastal issues and seaward to the edge of
the continental shelf or the edge of the Exclusive Economic
Zone whichever is seaward. The programs of the Coastal
Institute will center about four clusters of activities:
   a. Local: Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island Sound.
   b. Regional: Maine to Cape Hatteras.
   c. National: comparative studies to better focus local
      and regional efforts.
   d. International: both comparative studies and out-reach
      efforts to assist developing countries cope with their
      coastal problems.

2. The intellectual scope of the Coastal Institute will
include both basic and applied science which addresses
Coastal Institute issues and includes both the natural and
social sciences as well as engineering. The scope of the
Coastal Institute will encompass research and
extension/out-reach activities. Formal class room type
education will be limited to conferences, workshops,
seminars and occasional special courses.

Within these bounds those associated with the Coastal
Institute will have considerable flexibility to develop
their programs, but given the dynamics of the proposed
structure it seems likely that most Coastal Institute
projects will be joint programs with participants coming
from different groups within the University or with
different agencies associated with the Coastal Institute.

3. Included in the structure of the Coastal Institute are the
Director, the Fellows of the Coastal Institute, the Council
of Fellows, an Executive Board and an Advisory Council.

a. The Director shall be a faculty or senior staff member
   of the University of Rhode Island. He/she shall not be an
   employee of the federal government or a state agency
   associated with the Coastal Institute. The Director reports
to the Vice Provost for Marine Programs. The
   responsibilities of the Director include:
   i. with the advice of the Council of Fellows, provide
      scientific leadership, research coordination, planning
      and priority setting,
   ii. develop mechanisms to encourage and facilitate
      cooperative research and out-reach activities between
      Fellows of the Coastal Institute and with other groups,
   iii. insure the Coastal Institute plays a leadership
      role on the local, national and international scene in
      areas of its expertise,
   iv. serve as chair of the Council of Fellows and as a
      non-voting member of the Executive Board,
   v. develop policies and procedures to insure the
      financial and organizational integrity of the Coastal
      Institute.

b. The Fellows of the Coastal Institute shall be scholars
   and practitioners of significant stature. They must hold
   regular appointments at URI, DEM, CRMC or at the NOAA,
   EPA or NPS/NBS facilities on campus or be recognized scholars
   or practitioners by the Fellows of the Coastal Institute.
   Fellows should be recommended by the Director and approved
   by the Executive Board. Appointments should be for three years
   and Fellows may be re-appointed. However, re-appointment is
   not automatic. Active participation of the Fellow in the
   life of the Coastal Institute (attendance at seminars,
   meetings, etc.) will be a criterion for re-appointment.
   There is no limit on the number of Coastal Institute
   Fellows. Provision should be made for Visiting Fellows.

c. The Council of Fellows shall consist of eleven Fellows,
   from the University, (broadly distributed to represent the
   University's interest in coastal issues) and from DEM,
   NOAA, EPA, and NPS/NBS. The distribution of council members
   amongst these six organizations should be representative of
   the number of Fellows each organization has in the Coastal
   Institute, except that each organization must have at least
   one representative on the Council of Fellows. The Director
   of the Coastal Institute shall be the chair of the Council
   of Fellows. The Council of Fellows shall:
   i. play a leadership role in the development and
      maintenance of the quality of Coastal Institute
      programs,
D. INTER-INSTITUTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

This program will have no overlap and little effect on either Rhode Island College or the Community College of Rhode Island. It will have important effects on inter-institutional collaboration among the three federal institutions housed at the University of Rhode Island and on the two Rhode Island departments (DEM and CRMC) associated with the Coastal Institute. It will have important effects on intra-institutional collaboration within the University of Rhode Island.

The Coastal Institute is a means for bringing together and building a community of coastal researchers and practitioners from the University (both Kingston and Bay Campus) the state government (the Department of Environmental Management and the Coastal Resources Management Council) and those federal agencies associated with the University (NOAA and the National Park Service). It is a mechanism for this community of researchers and practitioners to examine issues and to work together on coastal problems of common interest through research, education and advisory and out-reach activities. Allowing for the very real differences in missions and regulations of URI, DEM, CRMC, NOAA, EPA and NPS/NBS it will, insofar as possible, be a "joint coastal institute."

Although one can point to many successful collaborations from different departments and colleges in the past, many through Sea Grant, any realistic appraisal of the past would also note many lost opportunities. One can also point to a number of successful collaborations in the past between the University and the Department of Environmental Management and the Coastal Resources Management Council, but again one can also point to many lost opportunities. It is expected that the Coastal Institute will enhance the opportunities for true cooperation.

Given the range of missions of those organizations involved, it is not to be expected that all projects or programs will receive the formal endorsement of each of the sponsoring members. Since the Coastal Institute will be administratively attached to the University of Rhode Island, all Coastal Institute programs must be of a nature appropriate to a university and must have at least minimum university participation. But it will not be necessary, for example, for DEM members of the Coastal Institute to participate in, or for DEM to formally support, a Coastal Institute program in Thailand, or for EPA members of the Coastal Institute to participate in, or formally support, a Coastal Institute fisheries research project.

The Coastal Institute is not a degree-granting component of the University. It may sponsor workshops, special courses and conferences. Students, both graduate and undergraduate, may participate in its activities and use this work for educational credit including thesis and dissertation research, but responsibility for the determination and satisfying of formal education requirements will remain the responsibility of the departments and colleges.

The Coastal Institute is not a building or buildings on either the Kingston Campus or Narragansett Bay Campus. It is expected that the proposed Coastal Institute building on the Narragansett Bay Campus will house the central administrative structure of the Coastal Institute and many of the activities of the Coastal Institute.
Institute will be housed in that building, but it is not expected that Coastal Institute programs will be limited to those that are housed there, nor should it be required that those who are must associate themselves 100% with the activities of the Coastal Institute.

Although the Coastal Institute may be involved in policy analysis, it is not a generator of policy or policy proposals. Fellows of the Coastal Institute and the organizations they represent may not be so constrained, but policy statements, as distinguished from policy analysis, should be made by Fellows in their private capacity or, if appropriate, on behalf of the organization they represent.

**E. RESOURCES**

The establishment of the Coastal Institute requires few resources but some exemptions from Board-approved University policies. It will require resources if it is to succeed, and this proposal offers a plan for how those resources can be generated.

1. Support for the Director, secretarial and other infrastructure support will come from the university and will be carried in the budget of the Vice Provost for Marine Programs. These funds will come from redistribution of existing funds.

2. Being a Fellow of the Coastal Institute or a member of the Council of Fellows does not imply financial support. For URI Fellows this translates as no "released time" for simply being associated with the Coastal Institute, although projects generated within the Coastal Institute may result in released time or other forms of support for those Fellows actively involved. There are no requests for new state supported faculty or staff positions in the Coastal Institute other than those noted in (1) above.

3. There is no financial support, formal or implied, between URI and those federal (NOAA, EPA and NPS/NBS) and state (DEM and CRMC) agencies associated with the Coastal Institute. However, if formal memoranda of understanding (MOU's) are developed between the University and DEM, NOAA, EPA or NPS/NBS, there will be nothing in the proposed MOU's that will preclude support for either general or specific projects mutually agreed upon. Such MOU's may simplify joint contractual understandings for mutually agreed projects of the Coastal Institute.

4. Just as there will be no guarantee of financial support from those agencies associated with the Coastal Institute, there will be no constraints on requests for support to other federal or state agencies or private organizations for programs that have received the approval of the Coastal Institute.

**P. EVALUATION**

There are two formal modes of evaluation. One is the Executive Board (see C-3-d) that meets quarterly and is chaired by the Vice Provost for Marine Programs. The other is the Advisory Council (see C-3-e), chaired by the University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. In addition there are two informal modes of evaluation. If over time faculty and staff lose interest and cease being Coastal Institute Fellows and if the Coastal Institute fails to generate sufficient outside support to prosper that is perhaps the best evaluation of all that the Coastal Institute is not healthy.

Propose that after sponsored projects administration costs are addressed that 100% of all remaining overhead generated by projects and programs of the Coastal Institute be returned to the Vice Provost for Marine Programs. The Vice Provost will allocate a minimum of one quarter to the colleges and schools of the principal investigator(s) and a minimum of one quarter to the Director of the Coastal Institute for investment in the Coastal Institute. This investment can take many forms, for example, financing pilot projects, providing start-up funds, purchasing equipment, sponsoring seminars and paying for publications. The remaining funds will be retained by the Vice Provost and used to enhance the activities of other marine programs of the University. This additional overhead support for the Coastal Institute will continue for seven years, at which time this arrangement will be reviewed by the administration.

Because the University share of overhead is involved, this overhead arrangement will require action by the Board of Governors.

The 100% return on overhead to the Graduate School of Oceanography during its formative years was one of the prime reasons for its success. We believe a similar policy can play a similar role in the growth and success of the Coastal Institute. Given the lack of state funds to provide adequate financing of this new program, we see this proposal as the only way to get this important program launched.

**RETURN ON OVERHEAD**

Given the present inability of the University to provide significant new support for the Coastal Institute, we propose to use the same procedure that was so successful in the development of the Graduate School of Oceanography thirty years ago. For a seven year period, we
INTRODUCTION:
This committee’s charge (Faculty Senate By-Laws, 4.35-4.37) involves periodic review of the policies and operations of the student judicial system and the Student Handbook. The committee works in cooperation with the Director of the Office of Student Life (OSL), who serves as an ex officio member of the committee. During the current academic year, the Office of Student Life brought several agenda items to the committee for consideration. Discussion of items resulted in the following recommendations for Faculty Senate approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Faculty Senate amend sections 5.19.11 and 5.19.12 of the UNIVERSITY MANUAL which refer to the University Board on Student Conduct. The revised sections would read:

5.19.11 In hearing cases of alleged violations of non-academic community standards of behavior, the voting composition shall be six student members and one member appointed by the Faculty Senate. A quorum shall be four student members and one member appointed by the Faculty Senate. In hearing cases of alleged violations of academic community standards of behavior, the voting composition and the quorum shall be four faculty or faculty emeriti and three student members. Graduate student members of the board shall be voting members in an academic case only if the accused is a graduate student.

5.19.12 The Faculty Senate will identify six members to be considered as permanent conduct board members to hear both non-academic and academic cases. They shall hold the rank of faculty emeriti, assistant professor or assistant director or above and shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Faculty Senate. Board responsibilities will be shared by these six individuals as described in 5.19.11.

Rationale: Since the spring of 1993, the Faculty Senate has had extreme difficulty finding faculty who are willing to fulfill the two year commitment to the committee. The UBSC meets on Thursday evenings and hears 6-10 cases per year. The proposed changes expand the pool of possible committee members to include emeriti faculty and staff members in the position of assistant director of above.

2. That the Faculty Senate amend the last sentence of section 9.26.10 of the UNIVERSITY MANUAL.

Current UNIVERSITY MANUAL Section 9.26.10:

9.26.10 Pending final action on violation of University regulations, the status of a student shall not be altered or his/her right to be present on the campus and to attend classes suspended, except for reasons of imminent danger to his/her physical or emotional safety or well-being or for reasons of imminent danger to the safety or well-being of the University community. The decision to separate a student from the campus under these conditions shall be made only by the President of the University after consultation with the Chairperson of the Faculty Senate and either the President of the Student Senate or the President of the Graduate Student Association. If a student is separated from the campus by this authority, the procedures outlined in section 9.21.10 shall be implemented within 10 class days after the separation to provide full due process for the student with all deliberate speed.

Proposed change in the last sentence of 9.26.10:

If a student is separated from campus by this authority, an administrative hearing or a hearing before the Student Conduct Board must be held within 10 class days after the separation to provide full due process for the student with all deliberate speed. The student may request a hearing delay in writing. If a student is separated from campus by this authority, the student must remain separated until the hearing is held.

Rationale: A student should be able to choose the course of action. In serious cases where concurrent criminal charges exist, attorneys instruct their clients, our students, not to cooperate with the institution. This change would allow the campus community to be safe while encouraging cooperation between all parties concerned.

3. That the Faculty Senate change the composition and redefine the function of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee. The revised section 4.37 of the Senate By-Laws would read:

4.37 The Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee will convene when the Faculty Senate receives a request to review policies related to student discipline and the judicial system. The Committee will be composed of four faculty, one of whom will serve as Chair, two undergraduates, one graduate student and the Director of Student Life (ex officio).

*This change in the By-Laws of the Faculty Senate requires a 2/3 majority vote and may not be voted upon at the meeting at which it is first moved.
June 24, 1998

TO: President Robert Carothers
FROM: Stephen T. Hulbert, Commissioner
SUBJECT: Approval of the Establishment of a Coastal Institute at the University of Rhode Island

This is to advise you that the Board of Governors for Higher Education took the following action at its meeting on June 18, 1998.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED:

That the Board of Governors for Higher Education modify the overhead recovery policy for the URI Coastal Institute as specified in the attached (under Resources), and further

That the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the establishment of a Coastal Institute at the University of Rhode Island.

Attachment

c. M. Beverly Swan
Cynthia Ward
L. Barrett
S. Grubman
M. Leinen
B. Lord
T. Rockett

Employer Complies with Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action and ADA Laws
TO: Members of the Board of Governors for Higher Education

FROM: Stephen T. Hulbert

SUBJECT: Approval of the Establishment of a Coastal Institute at the University of Rhode Island

In accordance with the Board of Governors for Higher Education Regulations Governing Instructional Program and Organizational Changes in Rhode Island Public Institutions of Higher Education (January 1996), the University of Rhode Island has submitted a proposal to the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education for the establishment of a Coastal Institute (a summary of the proposal is attached).

The plans for the Coastal Institute have evolved over the last several years and represent a partnership between the University of Rhode Island, the State of Rhode Island (Department of Environmental Management and the Coastal Resource Management Council), and three agencies of the federal government (the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Biology Survey/National Park Service). The scope of the institute will include both basic and applied sciences, natural sciences, social sciences, and engineering. Its work will encompass both research and extension/outreach activities. The institute is located in a building on the Narragansett Bay Campus that is supported with both state and federal funding. Since the opening of that building in 1996, the institute has been operating on an informal basis and the position of director has been filled.

The proposal contains a request for a modification in the Board of Governors policy on overhead recovery as it pertains to future extramural funding secured under the auspices of the proposed institute. It is proposed that the net overhead recoveries (overhead remaining after deductions for sponsored programs administration, the special building allowance and the provost’s share) be returned to the principal investigators and the director of the institute. This arrangement is recommended for five years with review after that period, and is proposed because the University is unable to provide adequate funding from existing internal sources. This approach has been used by the University in the past, and is similar to the approach used when starting the Graduate School of Oceanography.

The Planning and Program Committee discussed the proposal at its meeting on May 29, 1998, and endorsed the recommendations that the Board of Governors modify its overhead recovery policy in this case and approve the establishment of the program.

Because the Coastal Institute works well with the marine and environmental focus of the University of Rhode Island, it is recommended —

THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education modify the overhead recovery policy for the URI Coastal Institute as specified in the proposal, and further —

THAT The Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the establishment of a Coastal Institute at the University of Rhode Island.
University of Rhode Island Proposal to Establish a Coastal Institute

Proposal Summary

The University of Rhode Island has submitted to the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education a proposal to establish a Coastal Institute.

Rationale

Rhode Island is a coastal state and over the years the University of Rhode Island has built an array of expertise on coastal issues. This expertise is found both on the Narragansett Bay Campus and on the Kingston Campus. The purpose of the Coastal Institute is to create a joint program which will offer opportunities for partnerships within the institution and with state agencies (Department of Environmental Management and the Coastal Resource Management Council) and federal agencies (the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Biology Survey/National Park Service).

Program

The geographic range of the Coastal Institute will extend inland to include activities within the watershed that directly affect the coastal environment and seaward to the edge of the continental shelf. Four clusters of activities will make up the programs for the institute: local (Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island Sound); regional (Maine to Cape Hatteras); national (comparative studies which will focus on local and regional efforts); and international (both comparative studies and outreach efforts to assist developing countries).

The intellectual scope of the Coastal Institute will include both basic and applied sciences in natural and social sciences as well as in engineering. Research and extension/outreach activities will be emphasized and formal classroom education will be limited to conferences, workshops, seminars and occasional special courses. Within these bounds, those associated with the institute will have considerable flexibility. It is intended that the programs designed will be new initiatives, rather than the incorporation of existing programs.

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1 This summary was prepared by the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education from the document submitted by the University of Rhode Island on March 10, 1998. A copy of the full proposal is available on request.
In terms of structure, the Coastal Institute will have a director, executive board and advisory council. Fellows of the Coastal Institute will be scholars and practitioners of significant stature who hold regular appointments at URI, DEM, CRMC, or one of the federal agencies. Fellows will be recommended to the director and approved by the executive board and their appointments will be for three years. There will be no limit on the number of fellows and provisions will often be made for visiting fellows.

Interinstitutional Considerations

The program will have no overlap and little affect on either of the sister institutions in the system or on other institutions in the state.

Resources

The establishment of the Coastal Institute will not require any new resources, but a redeployment of existing ones. To provide additional revenues for the Coastal Institute, the University is proposing that the procedures similar to those used for the development of GSO be employed. It is proposed that, for a five-year period, the overhead generated by the projects and programs of the Coastal Institute (minus the associated costs of sponsored projects administration, the special building allowance, and the provost’s share) be returned to the vice provost for marine affairs who will allocate half of this sum to the colleges and schools of principal investigators and the other half to the director of the Coastal Institute for investment, which may take many forms, such as financing pilot projects, providing start-up funds, purchasing equipment, sponsoring seminars, and paying for publications. It is proposed that, after five years, this arrangement will be reviewed by the URI administration. This overhead recovery arrangement requires the approval of the Board of Governors.