

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

REPORT OF THE STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES COMMITTEE

April 2008

The following three changes to the UNIVERSITY MANUAL are recommended by the Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee and require Faculty Senate approval.

1. **5.74.12** New student members shall be selected by the existing board. In selecting new members, the Board shall make every effort to provide Board representation for each of the following groups: Fraternities/sororities, residence hall students, and commuters. Care shall also be taken that the interests of minority groups be considered in the selection process. Only full-time students who do not have current judicial sanctions shall be allowed to serve. The Office of Student Life shall appoint a Conduct Board Advisor, who shall not be considered a member of the board, but who shall be present at Board meetings.

Rationale: Students with an active sanction (e.g., disciplinary probation) may not impartially evaluate the facts of an incident or an appropriate sanction. Unanimously recommended by Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee.

2. **5.75.11** The Appeals Board shall comprise one full-time student who does not have a current judicial sanctions appointed ~~jointly~~ by the Presidents of the Student Senate ~~and Graduate Student Association~~, one member of the teaching faculty appointed by the Chairperson of the Faculty Senate, and a chairperson holding the rank of assistant professor or above appointed by the President of the University. For a graduate student's appeal, the Graduate Student Association shall appoint a graduate student member to the Board. Alternates for each position shall be appointed by the appointing authorities. A quorum shall require the presence of all three Board members; however, when duly appointed members or alternates cannot be convened quickly, former members of the Appeals Board may be called upon to serve, providing proper Board composition is maintained. The Office of Student Life shall appoint an Appeals Board Advisor, who shall not be considered a member of the board, but who shall be present at Board meetings.

Rationale: This eliminates the complicated joint appointment of a student member and insures that an undergraduate serves for undergraduate cases and a graduate student for graduate cases. Unanimously recommended by Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee.

- 3. 9.23.10 Emergency Suspension.** 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 with the approval of the Vice President for Student Affairs or the President. ~~The Chairperson of the Faculty Senate, the President of the Student Senate, and the President of the Graduate Student Association shall be notified in writing by the Office of Student Life about the general situation giving rise to the suspension; the identity of the suspended student shall, however, not be revealed to these officials.~~ If a student is separated from campus under this authority, the procedures outlined in 9.21.10-30 shall be implemented only if the suspended student requests in writing that it be done. If a hearing is requested, every effort shall be made to schedule it within 15 class days after the separation. A student separated from campus by this authority must remain separated until a hearing is held. If more than one semester elapses from the time of the suspension to the time the student requests a hearing, the hearing shall be an administrative one.

Rationale: The circumstances of emergency suspension are generally extreme, for example, multiple suicide attempts or felony arrests. Limiting the sharing of information to the President or the Vice President for Student Affairs protects the student's privacy. Recommended by the Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee, 10 for, 0 against, 1 abstention.