

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
September 2005

The Executive Committee met regularly during the summer 2005 and after consideration, the FSEC agreed to bring forward to the Faculty Senate recommendations for changes to the UNIVERSITY MANUAL regarding the establishment of a committee on the undergraduate initiative on the Providence Campus and the University. Following are each of the recommendations with rationale.

I. PROVIDENCE CAMPUS UNDERGRADUATE INITIATIVE COMMITTEE.

Background

The Faculty Senate approved the establishment of a committee to provide oversight for the new Providence Campus Undergraduate Initiative, which is scheduled to begin in Fall 2006. (See <http://www.uri.edu/facsen/428CAC.html> for the 438th Report of the Curricular Affairs Committee, Faculty Senate Bill #04-05--9). The Executive Committee drafted a charge to and membership of the committee in consultation with the Provost and appointed the committee for 2005-06.

Recommendation

The Executive Committee recommends approval of the following new sections of the UNIVERSITY MANUAL:

5.83.10 The Providence Campus Undergraduate Initiative Committee shall oversee undergraduate programs offered on the Providence Campus to students admitted under the provisions of section 8.88.10. The committee shall provide advice and support to the Vice Provost for Urban Programs and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs during the initial stage of the initiative. After the establishment phase, the committee shall review the initiative every 4 years. Specific degree programs will be reviewed every three years on a staggered basis in accordance with the University's current review policies.

5.83.11 The committee shall be comprised of the following members: one faculty member appointed by each department which offers an

undergraduate program at the Providence Campus; three faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate in consultation with the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs from departments that do not offer undergraduate programs; and a designee of each of the following: the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice Provost for Urban Programs, the Dean of University College and Special Academic Programs and the Dean of Admissions. Faculty members shall be appointed for three-year staggered terms. One of the Faculty Senate's appointees shall serve as chair.

5.83.12 The committee shall meet on a regular basis and report annually to the Faculty Senate through the Curricular Affairs Committee on the status of the overall Providence Campus initiative. Recommendations shall be forwarded to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee for appropriate action.

II. AMENDING THE UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

Background

On May 9, 2005, the Faculty Senate approved a revised calendar for academic years through 2010. Early in the summer it came to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee's attention that the change in the official date of spring break for 2006 in the approved calendar for 2005-06 created serious confusion and uncertainty for members of the university community. The change was from the traditional week (March 13-19, 2006), which had been published and promulgated previously, to the following week - March 20-26, 2006. As people learned of this change in spring break scheduling, a number of problems were identified. These problems especially affect those members of the campus who must make plans, schedules, travel arrangements, etc., at least one year in advance.

In order to avoid further confusion, the Executive Committee took the unprecedented step of acting for the Senate in accordance with section 4.3 of the Faculty Senate By-Laws and changing the spring semester calendar. It was agreed that while such action was necessary at that time, the problems that occurred with regard to a last-minute calendar change should not happen again. As a result, the Executive Committee proposes that, except for emergencies, it should not be possible to modify an approved calendar within 18 months of the start of the semester in question.

Recommendation

The Executive Committee recommends approval of a clarification to section 8.70.13 (change is underlined) and the addition of a new section 8.70.14 as follows:

8.70.13 Recommendations regarding rescheduling class days missed within an academic year as the result of natural calamity, work stoppage, etc. shall be the responsibility of the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee, whose proposals will be subject to the approval of the Faculty Senate.

8.70.14 With the exception of circumstances stated in 8.70.13, changes to the calendar shall not be considered within eighteen months prior to the beginning of a semester.