

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND




Serial Number #12-13--1

TO: President David Dooley

FROM: Peter Larsen, Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL titled, Proposal for a Joint Committee on Online and Distance Learning, is forwarded for your consideration.
2. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on September 20, 2012.
3. 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.
4. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective October 11, 2012, 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.

September 21, 2012
(date)



Peter Larsen
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT

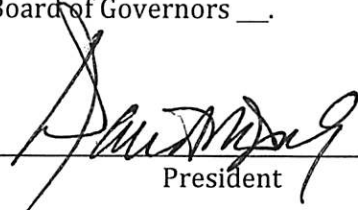
TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

Returned.

- a. Approved
- b. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Governors ___.
- c. Disapproved ___.

9.28.12
(date)



President



REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
September 5, 2012

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ONLINE AND DISTANCE LEARNING

BACKGROUND

The original proposal for a new online committee was considered by the Executive Committee in the spring of 2011, but was postponed pending the appointment of a new director. Since Dr. Goldsmith's arrival, a revised proposal was drafted and brought to the FSEC to consider recommending its approval as a continuing committee. This committee will not be part of the curricular approval process but will serve in an advisory capacity to the Senate and the Provost on policies related to online teaching at URI.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Faculty Senate approve the following new sections of the *University Manual*:

5.78.10 The Joint Committee on Online and Distance Learning shall propose, examine and recommend institutional policies and practices for developing, planning, evaluating, and implementing online and distance learning offerings with a focus on quality, sustainability, and connection to the mission of the institution, with the approval of the Faculty Senate and the Provost. Such policies may include, but are not limited to, those regarding standards for faculty training and assurance of quality in the delivery of online offerings, expectations of students, student learning outcomes and assessment (in collaboration with SLOAA and appropriate entities), class size guidelines, intellectual property, compliance with ADA requirements, and reasonable accommodations dealing with access and digital divide issues. In addition, the committee shall consult with the appropriate University personnel on policies regarding national trends (i.e., interstate practices and regulations) associated with distance learning.

5.78.11 The committee shall provide advice and guidance to the Provost and Faculty Senate in the development and implementation of a strategic plan for online offerings, including web-enhanced, blended, and online courses; online certificate programs; and online and distance degree programs, including majors and minors. In its work, the committee will consult with the appropriate committees and the various colleges.

5.78.12 Membership. The committee shall comprise the Director of Learning, Assessment and Online Education as Chair, the Assistant Director of Online Learning and the Director of Media & Technology Services by virtue of their positions. The Provost shall appoint a designee from the Office of the Provost, a dean of a degree-granting college and a representative of the College of Continuing Education. The Faculty Senate shall appoint six faculty members to staggered three-year terms. A graduate student and an undergraduate student, appointed respectively by the Graduate Student Association, the Student Senate shall also serve on the committee. The faculty appointees shall represent the University Libraries, the Curricular Affairs Committee, the University College and General Education Committee and the Graduate Council and may represent more than one of these constituencies. Faculty appointees may succeed themselves once.