

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2007-08-2
October 16, 2007

ACTION #07-08--2
LABORATORY FEES

At the September 27 meeting of the Faculty Senate, the Senate referred to the Executive Committee with instructions, a substitute resolution for the original resolution on lab fees proposed by the Executive Committee (Action #07-08--2 attached).

The Executive Committee discussed the substitute resolution and the instructions regarding the resolution and agreed that another resolution would not be the appropriate response to the issue, which are the circumstances under which laboratory fees may be assessed. It is not the Executive Committee's role to recommend curricular guidelines or curricular policies. These matters are the purview of the Curricular Affairs Committee.

Therefore, the Executive Committee charges the CAC to develop criteria for determining what are acceptable uses for laboratory fees and whether the instructional method for any proposed course warrants the assessment of a laboratory fee.

Faculty Senate Action # 07-08--2:
Substitute Resolution Referred to Executive Committee

On September 28, 2007, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate proposed the following resolution on Lab fees:

Whereas laboratory fees are intended to support the extra costs associated with running a laboratory, laboratory fees should thus be levied only for those courses in which scheduled laboratories are a legitimate, integral part of an ongoing course curriculum. The University Course Catalog identifies laboratories, and ought to be the standard, by which laboratory fees are or are not levied,

Be it Resolved: that if a laboratory is not stipulated in the Catalog description, it is inappropriate to charge laboratory fees, and any needed extra funds ought to be sought from other sources.

A motion to substitute the following resolution was introduced and approved:

Whereas student learning outcomes in certain courses are highly dependent on the use of specialized learning facilities and various teaching materials, such as media, software, scientific and artistic supplies, and state-of-the-art technological equipment, the University should identify all such courses and charge students enrolled in these courses an appropriate "Laboratory/Studio/ Technology" fee to support the extra cost,

Be it Resolved: that the Provost's Office maintain a list of approved "Laboratory/Studio/Technology" courses, ensure that these courses are designated as such in the University Catalog, and charge an appropriate fee to be used solely for the benefit of the students enrolled in these courses.

After discussion, the Faculty Senate voted to refer the substitute motion to the Executive Committee with instructions. Among the instructions were the following:

- Consider the change in pedagogy that now includes various types of technology;
- Clarify the definition of Laboratory;
- Consider alternate terminology;
- Develop a transparent process for the review of proposals to charge fees for courses;
- Consider adding a notation about additional fees in the catalog;
- Define "consumables" as they relate to fees.