ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, 1967-68

The Human Rights Committee met only twice during the academic year
1967-68. The apparent inactivity of the committee was in part due to
the existence of numerous other committees and organizations which concern
themselves with this problem on a segmental basis and usually in isolation
from one another. The limited membership (three) of the rights committee
works against its serving as an effective watch dog committee, although
this is clearly a function it should perform. The absence of student mem-
bership and participation severely curtailed the committee's ability to gain
basic insights relative to the total problem of human rights infringement,
taking place within the university community. We assume that the absence
of student members on the committee is an oversight emanating from the
student government association.

The most common type complaint circulating within the university
community which clearly falls within the realm of interest of the com-
mittee is that of housing discrimination. While no formal complaints
have been lodged with the committee, informally the committee has heard
reports of both students and faculty being denied access to housing
appearing on the University Housing Offices' recommended list, on the
basis of race. Formal complaints have not been lodged with a University
agency because of a general lack of knowledge of the proper procedure to
be followed.

A recent discussion of this problem with a representative from the
housing office revealed that the office does possess the machinery to
follow up such complaints and to initiate formal action against the dis-
criminating party. The housing office likewise indicated a willingness
to distribute a statement, both in its housing guide and separately if
need be, which would inform students of the action to follow in case of
alleged acts of discrimination.

In order to make the human rights committee an effective university
committee it should include both elected and appointed faculty representa-
tion. Appointed membership should include representation from those
areas of the University in which complaints of discrimination are most
likely to be found. The clearest examples are housing and employment,
but other areas might possibly be added. The present committee is there-
fore recommending for early consideration an alteration in the membership
structure of the committee in order that it might become an active rather
than a passive body, which might truly perform a real and lasting function.

Human Rights Committee

F. Cunningham
H. Rose, Chairman
R. Stuckert