Recommendations of the University Relations Committee:

1. That attendance at commencement ceremonies for students graduating from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee become optional, effect June, 1971.

2. That students attending commencement ceremonies are expected to honor the tradition of wearing caps and gowns.

3. That Honors Convocation be immediately reinstated at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

Reasons for recommendations:

Attendance at commencement ceremonies has been a matter of tradition rather than legislation. To encourage attendance a directive has been issued requiring the student to notify his Dean if he is unable to attend commencement. The implication of the directive that a penalty would be invoked if notification was not given has not been enforced.

The reasons for non-participation in commencement are many, with illness, work, moving from the city prime justifications. In recent years there has been an increasing number of students who choose not to participate in commencement for personal reasons of belief or attitude. The change in attitude has caused other educational institutions to modify their traditional regulations on attending commencement.

Honors recognition at commencement ceremonies is an insufficient reward for achievement. A specially designated day or event should recognize students receiving honors.

To eliminate the non-enforceable directive on UWM commencement, to update UWM policy and to recognize honors achievement, the University Relations Committee recommends adoption of Document 637.

University Relations Committee

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