ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - 1971-1972

The Committee met some twelve times throughout the year and focused its attention primarily on the problem of Course and Faculty Evaluations.

In response to the change of the Faculty Senate (November 11, 1971, UWM FAC. DOC. NO. 686B, as amended) the Committee has attempted to nurture the development of a respectable, comprehensive and on-going program of course and faculty evaluation.

Recommendation #1 (approved in Committee, December 7, 1971):

That the University Administration provide funding for salary, office help, and supplies for an executive secretary to be hired by USG to help develop and to administer a continuing program of Course and Faculty Evaluation, following guidelines established by USG.

USG has not responded to this recommendation and shows no signs of doing so. Hence, the Committee began exploring other possibilities for the development of an evaluation program.

Since an important issue in evaluations is the uses to which they are put, the Committee conducted a survey of deans and executive committees, asking them to help.

By indicating how you have used, or might in the future use, the results of Course and Faculty Evaluations.

Please indicate what analysis of your previous formal Course and Faculty Evaluations has been completed by your department and furnish a copy of such analyses for review and consideration by the Academic Affairs Committee in developing future evaluation instruments. (Letter dated December 16, 1971).

The results of that survey are appended.

Recommendation #2 (approved, April 24, 1972)

The Academic Affairs Committee Moves:

That the University administration engage a research group of two or three faculty members to provide advice on course and faculty evaluation to units of the University.

And, by September, 1973, develop a procedure for on-going University-Wide course and faculty evaluations.

The research group should receive official recognition for its work in the form of release time or the equivalent. The Academic Affairs Committee (consisting of 6 faculty and 5 students) should act as an advisory body to the research group.
Tasks of the Research Group will include:

1. Examination of the variety of evaluation instruments and procedures now in use at UWM and at other Universities;

2. Development or identification of evaluation instruments that will account for the diversity of learning settings at UWM (including laboratory courses, tutorials, team-taught courses, etc.);

3. Development of an evaluation procedure which accounts for:

   the lack of continuity in student government,
   the diversity of class meeting formats and times,
   apathy,
   mistrust,
   and fear of evaluation

Recommendations of the Research Group should be brought to the Senate by the Academic Affairs Committee.

Business to be carried over to 1972-1973

1. 48-hour deadline for reporting grades: Might it be extended?
   Contact: Professor Michael Besel, Chairman,
   University Committee-Milwaukee

2. Legality of extra laboratory fees in addition to tuition in a state institution.

3. Development of a procedure to report drops from class rosters within a week or two instead of twice a semester.

   Academic Affairs Committee

   W. Attoe, Chairman
   B. Fetter
   R. Hickman
   K. Kapp
   P. Mahon
   W. Stroud
   H. Pincus, ex-officio
   A. Suppan, ex-officio

   Students:

   E. Ansfield
   L. Dernehl
   R. Kropp
   P. Urben
   J. Wagner