University Committee-Milwaukee Response to the Faculty Senate on Questions Raised in RAP for the 70's

The charge by the Faculty Senate asking the University Committee to respond to the questions raised in RAP for the 70's came at a most inopportune moment. Matters such as the merger legislation, faculty workload equalization, as well as the mounting grievances have made it impossible to conduct formal studies in some of the areas of concern. However, the Committee will respond as best it can and with what information it has been able to obtain to the specific questions raised.

1. An all-University colloquium should be developed focusing on the decision-making processes in the University. The problem of having scheduled University colloquia has been faced indirectly for some time while there seems to be demand for having relevant meetings of the kind proposed, history has also shown that routinely scheduled meetings encounter a great deal of apathy. At one time it was thought that the Faculty Forum would fulfill the function proposed, but it has not proved to be a viable instrument. The University Committee is preparing a proposed revision for the Forum that may prove capable of meeting the needs.

2. The University should provide an attorney to give legal advice to students and student groups. Mr. Winograd serves as the University's legal adviser and can advise on matters relating to the University. However, it is not consistent with public policy to provide legal advice for personal problems.

3. Selection committees should strongly consider women appointees to improve the balance between men and women in administrative positions. Selection committees at UWM have had for some time an explicit policy - the principle of seeking the best qualified candidates for a position regardless of sex, race or creed. The academic community must recognize this responsibility in making their proposals and nominations. The problem, therefore, is one shared by the entire campus and not merely a problem of committees.

4. Non-tenured (junior) faculty members should be voting members of departmental executive committees. The University Committee is aware of the many arguments put forth for having non-tenured faculty as voting members of departmental executive committees and of having elected rather than automatic members on that committee. Those departments which actively seek authorization to elect the executive committee and/or to have non-tenured faculty serve on that committee should propose appropriate amendments to the University Laws and Regulations that will accomplish their goals. We remind the faculty in general, and the Senate in particular, that any group can write a proposal to modify existing regulations and submit them to the Senate for consideration and action. Those who are particularly concerned about specific changes ought to accept the responsibility of drafting their own modifications to the regulations.

5. Executive committees should be elected periodically rather than consist of senior department members. The above response applies equally to this issue.
6. Students should be represented on all University committees. The role of students in the governance of the University is undergoing continuous study, both by USG and by such groups as the University Committee. At the present time there are some interests which hold that some student committees should not have faculty members. The converse also holds: that there are faculty committees which do not warrant student membership. At the same time, it must be recognized that every year an increasing number of committee memberships are changed to admit students. As student membership on university or college committees is extended, the problem of obtaining students to serve is increased. Hence, we recommend that those who propose specific instances of adding student members to committees also provide appropriate recommendations for student selection.

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