A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS LEADING TO A DISCUSSION OF THE
FUTURE OF ROTC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—MILWAUKEE

In order that the faculty might have in mind the principal facts concerning the recent agitation on ROTC we present the following: it appears that the question about ROTC was presented to the University of Wisconsin Committee sometime during 1958-59. The University Committee, after a good deal of investigation, presented a report on ROTC to the President and the Administrative Committee dated May 19, 1959. This report presented arguments for and against compulsory ROTC as follows:

1. A voluntary program would reduce the number of students electing the advanced corps because the first two years of compulsory ROTC served as a recruitment period.
2. The two-year basic training gives a student an initial advantage when volunteering for or drafted into the army.
3. The basic training enrollees provide the men an opportunity for advance corps students to improve their experience in leadership and command.

The principle arguments presented to the committee for a non-compulsory ROTC program were:

1. The basic two-year program is not looked upon as one of sufficient achievement to warrant academic credit at the University or recognition during later military service.
2. Students frequently complain that the basic courses are wasteful of their time and not sufficiently challenging.
3. With the present need for highly trained officers the most important role of ROTC is more and more likely to be in the training of career and long-time service officers rather than reserves in great numbers.
4. The money saved by a non-compulsory first two years could be used toward a more vigorous program of recruiting the scholarships.

After stating the above arguments pro and con the University Committee submitted certain conclusions and recommendations as follows:

1. That the ROTC programs of any of the armed services should not be compulsory at Madison, Milwaukee or any of the extension centers.
2. That in either compulsory or non-compulsory programs the faculty should play a greater role in ROTC education.
3. That an ad hoc Committee should be appointed to examine broad policy questions and present recommendations.
As a result an ad hoc Committee, of which Professor McLaughlin is the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee member, is considering some of the following questions:

1. How can the administration and faculty play a more active part in the guidance of the ROTC program?

2. What could be done to improve the intellectual content of ROTC courses?

3. To what extent could civilian faculty members be used to teach special courses?

4. To what extent could present academic offerings be substituted for units in the ROTC curricula?

5. To what extent could the non-academic parts of ROTC training be transferred to summer camps?

6. By what better means could the importance of a military career be made known to our under-graduates?

7. To what extent should University credit be offered for studies in the ROTC curricula?

8. To what extent would it be desirable to establish a period of recruitment during the freshman year with actual ROTC course work initiated in the sophomore year?

On July 29, 1959, Provost Klotsche wrote to the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee Committee attaching a copy of a letter of President Elvehjem dated July 24, 1959, also a copy of a letter from President Elvehjem to Provost Klotsche bearing the same date. In the latter communication President Elvehjem states that it would be desirable for the two campuses to have basically the same ROTC policies. The letter goes on to suggest that since few University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee faculty members attend meetings of the all-University faculty in Madison it might be desirable to try to discover what the sentiment of the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee faculty is in order that knowledge thereof could be conveyed through the proper channels.

Meeting during the summer the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee Committee decided that it would be wise to have a special faculty meeting in advance of the all-University faculty meeting in order that proper opportunity for expression of faculty opinion might be furnished. There are two fundamental questions involved:

1. Is ROTC to be compulsory or non-compulsory?

2. In either case should the faculty play a greater role in ROTC education; if a greater role is desirable what should that role be?

The plan of the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee Committee is to have Professor Young and the University of Wisconsin Committee appear before a special University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee Faculty Meeting on September 24 in order to answer questions and present views and attitudes. One other historical fact should be noted; it appears that on April 30, 1959, the ROTC Committee of the University of
Wisconsin—Milwaukee by vote of 3 to 1 felt that compulsory ROTC as modified by changes in the basic course and by extension of credit is desirable. It is also to be noted that under date of June 11 a bill was sent to the Governor by virtue of which the question of optional ROTC at the University was left to the board of regents. The signature of the Governor is anticipated.

The University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee Committee must report to the Provost that the special faculty meeting called for the 24th will result in a vote as to how our colleagues feel about this question of ROTC for Wisconsin—Milwaukee. The committee hopes, therefore, for a tentative turnout at the Faculty Meeting.

It is thus that the final report of the University of Wisconsin will be distributed early next week.

THE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE, MILWAUKEE:

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James H. March
John W. Nash (Chairman)
Herman Weil