

REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
ON STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES
FOR THE SENATE AND ACADEMIC YEAR 1976-77

During the Senate and academic year 1976-77 the Steering Committee met in formal session eighteen times, for an average of 2.1 hours per session. Agenda and minutes for each meeting have been maintained and are available for inspection in the Office of the Provost, 207 Varner Hall. In addition numerous hours were consumed in telephone conferences, while individual members devoted additional hours to special business.

I. Regular Activities:

1. Senate Business

a. Senate Meetings: The Steering Committee arranged ten meetings of the University Senate during which important business of both routine and extraordinary character was conducted with thoroughness and dispatch. The record may be found in the publicly distributed agenda and minutes of those meetings. The 1975-77 University Senate should be congratulated.

b. Standing Committees: The Steering Committee examined the charges of each Senate Standing Committee and arranged for one major reorganization; the functions of the Academic Policy Committee and the Academic Budget and Planning Committee were redistributed among two new committees, Academic Policy and Planning and its permanent subcommittee the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction. The Senate approved these arrangements on March 17, 1977.

The Steering Committee monitored the work of all standing committees, and undertook successfully to provide for their 1977-78 membership in as fair a manner as possible. Unhappily the nature of the case is such that of the many who wish to be called, only a few can be chosen.

c. Appeals from the Academic Conduct Committee: The Steering Committee received four requests for appeal hearings from judgments of the Academic Conduct Committee. Two were not considered for want of sufficient grounds to warrant an appeal hearing. Two were considered and hearings were conducted. In each case, after thorough deliberation, the Academic Conduct Committee was sustained in judgment and penalty imposed. While sustaining the Academic Conduct Committee, the Steering Committee suggested certain procedural modifications to the Academic Conduct Committee. These suggestions have been adopted.

II. Special Activities:

1. The Great Constitutional Question (GCQ)

After some 18 months of discussion, negotiation, meditation (and some frustration), the Steering Committee brought to the University Senate a series of motions to amend the Constitution. After thorough and at times lively debate stretching over three Senate meetings, a set of amendments

were approved. The Steering Committee then arranged for an Open Hearing, after which the proposed amendments were submitted to the ratifying constituency for ratification. The Elections Committee certified on May 2, 1977, that the amendments were ratified by an overwhelming majority. A new constitutional document as amended and ratified was then sent to the Board of Trustees for consideration. The Board approved the Constitution as amended and ratified May 2, 1977, at its meeting of June 2, 1977.

The GCQ was thus finally resolved.

Copies of the amended, ratified, approved Constitution are attached.

The Steering Committee wishes publicly to thank all those who labored successfully in the Constitutional vineyard, but special note should be made of the efforts of Mr. William Hammerle, who deserves a round of applause.

2. The ad hoc Committee on Presidential Review Process: At the January 20, 1977, meeting of the Senate, on motion from the Steering Committee, an ad hoc Committee on Presidential Review Process was created. This committee conducted its business, submitted its finding to the Board of Trustees and, its work completed, was discharged by the Steering Committee with thanks on May 6, 1977.
3. The issues involved in the so-called Open Meeting Act caused a flurry of excitement and activity during February and March. The Steering Committee was in process of drafting a set of proposed By-Laws designed to assure Senate compliance with the law, when the Board resolved the matter on March 17, 1977, relieving the Senate of the necessity formally to act. The one blessing to come of all this was that the Steering Committee extracted a promise from the Chair that he/it/she would cease smart-assing around with the formal agenda and minutes. Alas, she/he/it has already backslid.

Respectfully submitted for the Steering Committee:

William Hammerle
Nigel Hampton
Eileen Hitchingham
Virginia Schuldenberg
John Shacklett
John Tower

George T. Matthews, Chairperson

GTM:jb
Office of the Provost
7/12/77

Attachment: Constitution