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ANNUAL REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE:

ALL UNIVERSITY SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

(Reported for Information on May 17, 1979)

The Senate Consultative Committee serves three primary functions: it is the Executive Committee and steering body of the University Senate; it serves as a consultative body to the President by providing a channel for student and faculty concerns; and it serves as a coordinating committee between administrative offices and the University Senate. Under this charge, the Consultative Committee convened one summer meeting and twenty meetings during the academic year of the Committee as a whole, and nine meetings with the President and other administrative officials to discuss matters of policy relating to educational interests of the University, legislative relations, personnel, service functions, research activities, the budget and the general financial condition of the University, and additional issues of concern to faculty and students.

I. The steering role of the Committee

- 1) The Committee chairman served as a liaison to the chairman of the University Committee on Business and Rules and to the Clerk of the Senate to advise when needed regarding establishment of the Senate calendar, gathering of materials for Senate dockets, and setting the order of Senate business.

II. Consultative and Executive role of the Committee

- 1) The Committee discusses a number of major policy issues having University-wide importance during the Academic year. These included merit equalization, retrenchment and reallocation, and biennial request review. Discussion of these issues were carried out with members of central administration as well as with faculty members from other appropriate committees; i.e., SCRAP, SCEP, and UCBRR.

Because the Committee is interested in continuing to develop its consultative relationship with the University Community, three newsletters were issued (SCC Reports) which detailed SCC Committee work as well as that by other University and Senate Committees. These

- newsletters represented SCC's effort to assure improved communication between Committees and the University Community.
- 2) SCC met regularly with President Magrath to discuss with him issues of concern to faculty and students. Topics discussed included University budget, retrenchment/reallocation procedures, University planning, Capital budget request, merit equalization and legislative relations. In all discussions, SCC stressed that academic affairs should be central to all discussions of the planning and/or budget process.
 - 3) The faculty members of the SCC and the student members were both invited by the Board of Regents to participate in the evaluation of the President, and both groups met with the Board's consultant who conducted the review.
 - 4) SCC considered the Senate Select Committee Report (Watson) and appointed a subcommittee to prepare specific recommendations for implementing the Select Committee recommendations pertaining to the Senate structure. SCC is concerned that the Senate structure be improved so as to deal more expeditiously with University policy issues.
 - 5) The Faculty Consultative Committee continued to have regular quarterly meetings with the Regents at which matters of general faculty were discussed. The FCC also accepted, on an interim basis, the Regents invitation to have faculty present at the monthly meetings of the Faculty and Staff Affairs Committee of the Regents. SCC feels that these opportunities to meet with the Regents has improved faculty/regents relationship and resulted in constructive discussion of issues.

III, Intercampus Activities

The Committee held meetings at the Waseca and Morris coordinate campuses. These meetings underscore the SCC charge to deal with issues of University-

wide concern. There are also a faculty and student representative from the Duluth and Morris Campuses on SCC who contribute the coordinate campuses point of view in matters discussed by SCC.

Members of the University Community at Morris and Waseca observed a regular session of SCC where matters of University-wide importance were discussed; there was also a luncheon and an occasion for informal conversation and an open forum was held to permit discussion between committee members and campus constituencies.

IV. Extra-University Relations

The Legislative Relations Advisory Committee (LRAC) which was established last year continued to meet informally during the year with legislative representatives. LRAC members and other SCC members also attended legislative hearings dealing with the University budget. Professor Keller, ex officio SCC member, also served as a special legislative representative.

University Committee on Biennial Request and Budget Review

The UCBRBR reported on the following issues to the SCC reinforcing the importance of the consultation process in preparation of the budget and academic planning at the University.

1. Review of Interim Guidelines and Criteria for 1979-1980 Retrenchment and Reallocation.
2. Deficits in 1978-79 budget.
3. Priorities for 1979-81 biennial request.
4. Equipment Replacement.
5. Review of the Planning Council Draft submitted by the Central Administration.

SCC transmitted material pertaining to these items with additional comments to the President.

V. Issues of Special Concern

Among the issues of most pressing concern to SCC was the Select Committee Report (Watson). SCC appointed a Subcommittee to discuss the recommendations of the Select Report and sent a memo to all University/Senate Committee Chairmen to elicit responses on the Select Committee. The SCC, then, devoted one

meeting to discussion of recommendations for implementation of the select committee plans. A second meeting will be held after responses from University/Senate Committees chairmen have been received and assessed by the Subcommittee. If it is possible, a report from SCC will be included in the docket for the May 31, 1979 Senate Meeting.

Of particular concern to students and faculty were the special reports which were issued and discussed during the academic year. Among these were: The Task Force on Athletics, Outreach, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Grievance Report. SCC discussed these reports and made recommendations concerning each one for purposes of Senate action or discussion with the President.

As part of SCC's continuing concern for better understanding of University programs, representatives from the College of Agriculture, the Graduate School and CLA gave presentations to the Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting. SCC plans to continue this policy in an effort to improve understanding of the problems and successes of various academic units.

VI. Issues of Continuing Concern

The Consultative Committee will continue active consultation with the Central Administration on matters which affect significantly academic planning and well-being of the University. The Committee is especially concerned with matters relating to budget and planning and the long range impact of these on the University academic programs.

In its role as Steering Committee for the University Senate, the Committee will continue to examine the Senate structure and the functioning of Senate committees to ensure the orderly flow of Senate business.