

# Faculty Senate discusses Ad Hoc report

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One of the main reasons for the special Faculty Senate meeting Thursday afternoon is the 14-page, single-spaced "Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Recommend Changes in the Structure and Operation of the Faculty Senate."

At first glance, the document doesn't seem to present any

## News analysis

headline-grabbing ideas such as a combined student-faculty senate or a senate where representatives would be elected by college.

But after one wades through the title, the sections, the resolutions and the comments, he becomes aware that the

report contains provisions significant to University students, instructors and young faculty members.

The faculty will gather in Love Library Auditorium Thursday to consider the report — perhaps section by section. It is possible that a few parts of it could be adopted and implemented almost immediately, while others would require administration and Board of Regents approval.

Little controversy will probably exist on the proposals to up student representation on eight of the 14 Faculty Senate committees that presently have student representatives.

In no instance, according to the ad hoc committee's proposals, would students have a majority on any of these 14 committees. But every com-

mittee that could affect students directly would have at least two student members.

Considerably more fuss is liable to be stirred on the ad hoc committee's proposal that instructors who teach more than a fourth of freshman and sophomore level classes be voting members of the Faculty Senate.

"The Committee feels that the possible conflicts of interest are minimal in comparison with the advantages of including in the Senate a large group of faculty who have a major commitment and responsibility within the University community and who are at present denied a voice in its governance."

The report does not deny the arguments against admitting instructors to the Senate.

"Enfranchising such a number of instructors (about 225 would be eligible) would cause conflicts of interest that might negatively affect the quality of graduate education, tip the balance of power in the Senate toward the junior staff who presumably are less capable and more radical than their seniors, and give too much power to the English Department in the College of Arts and Sciences," the report says.

The report continues that the ad hoc committee's six faculty members and four students voted unanimously on the instructor issue.

It is unclear just what the reception will be to proposals in the report that younger faculty members be given a voice in the Faculty Senate.

"At present, nearly 70 per cent of the members of Senate committees are full professors; most of the remainder are associate professors," the report states. "This inadvertent oligarchy tends to be self-perpetuating."

The ad hoc group's report also suggests that at least three faculty members below the rank of full professor be included in the elected membership of the Liaison Committee. That nine-member body, generally considered the most powerful and influential committee of the Faculty Senate, now consists of only full professors.

The Ad Hoc group made a number of other proposals. Some, like the one that would remove the Director of the Library from the Committee on Libraries, keeping him as an advisory member only, could spark considerable comment among the teachers who attend the Thursday meeting.

Others, like the one that would provide for an elected president of the Senate, instead of the present arrangement under which President Joseph Soshnik presides, are meant to increase the efficiency and expediency of the Faculty Senate.

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