

Petition no panacea

The faculty met for two and one-half hours Monday, but they still haven't acted on the Stephen Rozman case.

What the faculty did instead is circumvent and obscure the Rozman issue by proposing a panacea to all of the University's problems.

About the panacea, a constitutional convention, not much can be said. It was proposed in the form of a petition to the Board of Regents. The petition asks the Regents to call for a University constitutional convention which would meet this summer. The convention would have the responsibility of designing a document suited for the specific purpose of governing this University.

Perhaps this can become a reality, but in the meantime the faculty has an unfinished job to attend to.

It must be remembered that the faculty met for the purpose of "consideration of the Regents' actions in the Rozman case..." Professor Rozman was given a chance to speak at the meeting, but in the end, the faculty proved to be more indecisive than the Board of Regents.

The Regents had a statement on Rozman's actions six months after the Spelts report. The faculty still hasn't spoken.

Judging from the Regents' actions of the past, the most the faculty should expect from the Regents is a special committee, (perhaps they will call it Regents' ad hoc committee no. 99999), to study the feasibility and desirability of a constitutional convention. If this happens, that is, if the Regents ignore and/or postpone the faculty petition, then as a result of the faculty meeting, nothing will have been accomplished.

As was pointed out at Monday's meeting, emotions on this campus are high. Indecision and rhetoric do not meet the needs of the University.

The only alternative for the faculty is to reconvene its special meeting and act upon the issue at hand: Stephen Rozman.

Mick Moriarty

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN



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Telephones: editor: 472-2588, news: 2589, advertising: 2590. Second class postage rates paid at Lincoln, Neb.

Subscription rates are \$5 per semester or \$8.50 per year. Published Monday through Friday during the school year except during vacation and exam periods. Member of the Intercollegiate Press, National Educational Advertising Service.

The Daily Nebraskan is a student publication, independent of the University of Nebraska's administration, faculty and student government. Address: The Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.

Faculty meeting...

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Constitutional Convention an imaginative and exciting concept "to lift us above the sterility and frustration that will continue to plague our house if we continue to deal with these matters in the traditional fashion."

David Levine, chairman of the department of psychology and a member of the Liaison Committee who did not sign the resolution, objected that the existing rules "are fine. The problem has been that we haven't been playing by the rules."

"No matter what procedures are developed," he said, "if we don't honor the practices, we are no better off."

The 3:30 p.m. meeting began with a statement from Chancellor D. B. Varner. In a 20 minute address, Varner suggested that "rarely, if ever, has this University faced a less cheerful fortnight."

Varner noted the "awkward administrative situation" which resulted from Rozman's dismissal and the budget cut of the last two weeks.

I am equally convinced that some criticism is deserved for some of the actions or lack of actions, which we in the administration have taken," he said.

But the Chancellor told the faculty that he saw little value in "replaying all the history, all the situations, all the judgments which have been involved" in the Rozman case.

Rather Varner advised that the University should move "positively, constructively, and perhaps even boldly in developing solutions."

He recommended the development of procedures, mechanisms, expectations, and understandings to minimize the



Edgar Pearlstein

likelihood of again encountering the turmoil which has beset us during the past few months."

After Varner's comments, Rozman addressed the assembly.

After recounting a brief history of the procedures of the Spelts Commission, he concluded that they "simply were not conducive to screening out false testimony."

Rozman called the Regents' actions against him a threat.

"If untenured professors are to be denied freedom of expression, how safe are tenured professors?" he asked. "A victory for me would also be a victory for the University and the entire University community."

Three resolutions were defeated during the meeting. They called for:

--the Regents, Faculty Senate and Administration to adopt "a new comprehensive code of procedures governing grievances and dismissals."

--the faculty not to involve itself in any faculty disciplinary matters until the Regents are bound by either the Statement or Faculty Responsibilities of other procedures guaranteeing due process of law.

--establishing procedures dealing with a nontenured faculty member who has been charged with inappropriate actions.

Cabaret presents satire on racism

"Racists and Other Monsters," a cabaret sponsored by the Human Relations Insight League, will be presented Tuesday in the Nebraska Union Crib at 7:30 p.m.

The program consists of a series of skits which present a satirical look at people and prejudices. Other features will be guitarists Dori Marsh, Lyn McNickle, Anne Holman and John Lewis. Bruce Prohaska will speak about ecology and Dr. Truly A. Boringman will give a demonstration of his world shocking creation, "the perfect man."



N.J. Rosenberg