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Campus Council Membership Increase Proposal

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Campus Council Membership Increase Proposal

Campus Council is a body in which students, faculty, and administrators can meet and discuss and make recommendations on various aspects of the college community. Ideally, Council would be the place where the community came together to legislate for the community as a whole. This, of course, is not the case. Campus Council has the power only to legislate for the student constituency. The legislative power of Council is in areas of student life. And since its main power is to legislate students' personal life, it would seem justifiable that students have the major role in those decisions. Therefore Campus Council passed the following resolution on September 27, 1972:

That the Campus Council Memorandum shall be changed to read:

III. Membership.

The Council shall be composed of fifteen members:

IIIA. Nine students, including:

IIIA. 4. Six students to be elected by the student body.

The vote in Council was 8 in favor, 2 opposed, and one abstaining. The student body approved the resolution in a referendum in early October. The turnout in the referendum was the largest in any student election in three years.

The results were: YES--939 (88% of those voting...52% of the student body)

NO--127 (12% of those voting...7% of the student body)

NEITHER--2

TOTAL--1068 voting...59% of the student body.

The Faculty Senate approved the Council Resolution on October 1, 1972, with a unanimous vote.

The change in the Council Memorandum would mean that eight of the fifteen members of Council would be elected by the student body as a whole, an increase to the present figure of five out of twelve. (The Lowry Center Board is appointed.) Therefore, the elected representatives of the student body will have the major role in any decision determining student life.

could give Council more respect from the student body, especially in its regulation of student conduct, as it would be the students themselves who were determining policy. Precisely because it is primarily concerned with student activities, it is important that Council maintain the respect and interest of the student body.

The increase in student membership will also allow for greater diversity of student representation. In addition, the increase should improve the operation of Council itself. The bulk of the work and input into Council has been done by its student members. The vast majority of Council proposals, as well as most committee work has come from the students. This is understandable, as the faculty and administrative members have other commitments. But unfortunately, the student members of Council have responsibilities to the Student Government Association and Lowry Center Board. And increasingly, the student members at large are becoming involved in the operation of SGA--most notably with the Voter Facilitation Center, Summer Storage, and the Record Co-op. If Campus Council is to be a viable force on campus, it must have some people sitting on it who are willing to devote themselves exclusively to Council's concerns. Council seems to be moving toward becoming a body that makes reports and recommendations on campus life, and the additional input will be a necessity.

All of this is not to say that faculty and administrative officers should be ignored when it comes to making decisions concerning student social life and other campus topics. It should be noted that the student members of Council seldom vote as a unified bloc, and the addition of new student members will not mean that students on Council will run roughshod over the other members.

The preamble to the Campus Council Memorandum states that one of the purposes of Council is to stimulate "intellectual growth through liberal education." The experience that the student members of Council and the student body as a whole

could give Council more respect from the student body, especially in its regulation of student conduct, as it would be the students themselves who were determining policy. Precisely because it is primarily concerned with student activities, it is important that Council maintain the respect and interest of the student body.

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All of this is not to say that faculty and administrative officers should be ignored when it comes to making decisions concerning student social life and other campus topics. It should be noted that the student members of Council seldom vote as a unified bloc, and the addition of new student members will not mean that students on Council will run roughshod over the other members.

The preamble to the Campus Council Memorandum states that one of the purposes of Council is to stimulate "intellectual growth through liberal education." The experience that the student members of Council and the student body as a whole

will gain with the majority decision-making power on Council will be a valuable one. It will hopefully contribute to a sense of responsibility. In a sense, the increase can be seen as an educational experiment in self-government, with the student body recognizing the right of the President and the Board of Trustees to impose limits on their actions. The advice of faculty and administrative officers will continue to be carefully considered, but the major input in the decision making should come from the students themselves.

Robert Newman

Robert Newman
Campus Council Member-at-Large

CAMPUS COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

III. MEMBERSHIP

The Council shall be composed of twelve members:

A. Six students, including:

1. The President of the Student Government Association
2. The Vice-President for Educational Affairs of the Student Government Association.
3. A representative of the Lowry Center Board, to be designated by the Board from its own membership.
4. Three students to be elected by the student body.

B. Three members of the faculty elected by the faculty for a three-year term. Faculty members shall not succeed themselves.

C. The Dean of the College or his representative and two Deans from among the Personnel Deans to be selected by the President for a one-year term. The Personnel Deans may succeed themselves, but rotation is encouraged.

SUGGESTED CHANGE:

III. MEMBERSHIP

The Council shall be composed of fifteen members:

A. Nine students, including:

4. Six students to be elected by the student body.