

REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
ON STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE AND ACADEMIC YEAR 1978-79

The Steering Committee which was elected September, 1977 for a two-year term, met in formal session during 1978-1979 thirteen times for an average of 2.1 hours each meeting. In addition, much time was invested in telephone conferences and Sub-Committee meetings. The Agendas and Minutes of the Steering Committee are on file in the Office of the Provost and are open to public inspection. The outgoing Steering Committee wishes to take this opportunity to welcome the new 1979-1981 University Senate and the successor Committee which will be elected September 13, 1979.

I. Regular Activities:

- A. University Senate: The Steering Committee arranged for nine meetings of the Senate during 1978-1979, the details of which may be found in the Agendas and Minutes of that body. Much Steering Committee activity is devoted to "steering" the business of the Senate to and from various standing and ad hoc committees; if that business has run smoothly, then the Steering Committee shares with the Senate itself a small part of the credit.
- B. The Steering Committee was petitioned twice by students seeking to appeal actions of the Academic Conduct Committee. After careful review of the documented evidence in each case, the Committee denied the appeal and let stand the action of the Academic Conduct Committee, which body should be commended for the procedurally impeccable manner in which it handles the cases referred to it.
- C. As empowered by Article IV, 7 of the Constitution, in the name of the Senate, the Steering Committee recommended to the President and the Board, the graduating lists and University lists of December 18, 1978, April 26, 1979 and June 21, 1979.

2. Special Activities:

- A. For at least two years now, it has been apparent that there are faults in the constitutional definition of the Senate's constituencies. Specifically, academic units with power of primary appointment of faculty and authority over degree level programs have been added to the University without a corresponding extension of Senate franchise. The Steering Committee has considered these problems, but felt the necessary Senate and perhaps constitutional action should be the responsibility of the new Committee to initiate. In addition to the need to accommodate faculty representation in the light of changing realities, students and AP's have been seeking a broader entitlement, while the Alumni Association has been pressing for Senate representation. This issue--the broadening

Steering Committee Activities
Academic Year 1978-79
Page Two

of Senate franchise--will be studied by the new Committee as soon as it is organized in Fall, 1979.

- B. Following the announcement of President O'Dowd's resignation (January 1, 1980) to assume duties elsewhere, the Steering Committee's Sub-Committee on Presidential Review and Search met and by letter to David Lewis, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and by request for faculty nominees for service on a Senate Search Committee, reaffirmed the faculty's and the Senate's interest in participating in the search and selection of a new President. The full Steering Committee met on August 31 to sanction ex post facto the Sub-Committee's action and to develop appropriate motions for presentation to the Senate in September.

Respectfully submitted for the Steering Committee:

Jane Eberwein
Joseph Hovanesian
William Jones
Joel Russell
Mary Sue Rogers
John Tower

George T. Matthews, Chairperson

GTM/bc
Office of the Provost
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