

Student-faculty committees lack members, "interest has died down"

By WALTER BENSON
Of the Emerald

Despite presenting students with an ideal opportunity to have an active voice in the University's operations, student-faculty committees have a conspicuous number of vacant student positions.

"Five years ago these committees were really active and a big issue," says Debra Goldsbury-Corbett, ASUO vice-president. "But now interest has died down and it is hard to fill all the positions."

Because of this, Goldsbury-Corbett will circulate a questionnaire to current members of the 40 committees, seeking their opinions about the system.

"We want to know how their committees are going, if student positions are necessary and whether several committees might be combined," she says. "There has never been a systematic look at these committees until now. This form is vital to getting information."

Combining committees would be difficult, according to Robert Bowlin, dean of student personnel services. "I don't know how you'd streamline it," he says. "The reason for committees is to pull together the different elements and ideas of the campus. This takes time, and bureaucracy becomes difficult to avoid. Committees are slow, without question, but still necessary."

The main problems are lack of student interest because of not knowing the committees exist and the belief that the work isn't challenging.

"Committee work is really important at the University level," rebukes Goldsbury-Corbett. "They all report to Pres. Clark with recommendations."

She stressed that spectacular results are not the only important result of the committees. "The everyday work is important, too. For example, the Education Liaison Committee is looking into how the Division of Continuing Education will fit in with the University, and the Committee on the Status of Women is conducting a lecture series."

Committees are organized various ways. The most

common is by faculty legislation. These have the strictest guidelines, as they have to adhere to the legislation which created them. Committees organized by the administration are more loosely defined, with no binding legislation. As yet, no such committees have been organized by students, although it is possible.

After filling out a "very explicit" application, students are appointed to a committee by the ASUO office. The ASUO Committee on Committees then reviews the student and sends its recommendations to Johnson Hall. There, the administration checks into the student's status, making sure he is, indeed, a student and that he has no academic or discipline problems.

"The student need not have a lot of experience," says the ASUO VP, "but he must be a vocal student advocate and be willing to stick to an issue, and he can get two to five hours of SEARCH credit for committee work."

A slight change in the application process is in the offing, according to Goldsbury-Corbett.

"In the future when a student is accepted by Johnson Hall, a copy of his application will go to the committee chairperson so he can have a grasp of the new member, and so he will be able to integrate him better."

Often the student is new on a committee that has the same faculty members year after year. To combat this disadvantage, Goldsbury-Corbett urges new committee members to research their committee beforehand.

"We want students to have a well-outlined idea of their new committee," she explains. "Things such as what it did last year, its long-term history, why it was organized in the first place — just so they have a good grasp on things."

Terri Spotts, director of ESCAPE and past student member of the Education Experimentation, Innovation and Improvement Committee, cites time and lack of students as the major problems.

"It's hard to get things done, because the committee work is very time-consuming, and members are swamped with what they're doing outside the committee."

"And we need more students. Of the four positions available on my committee, only two were filled."

But, she continued, positive results do come out of the committees. "We went to the audio-visual department and got them to publish in the *Emerald* a list of films that come in early so they can be used more than once. In the past, if a film came in early nobody knew it around campus, and the film would sit there unused."

There are two major areas the ASUO is concentrating on concerning these committees. First, they're deciding whether students should have advisory consultant memberships, such as a handicapped student serving on the Campus Planning Committee to make certain ramps are provided for wheelchairs in new buildings. Second, they hope to decide when the best time is for student appointments, currently made in the fall. Since some committees do not meet until spring, these appointments would be better left until then.

...nuclear power, the pros and cons

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The main dumping site may be the Hanford area in Washington on the Columbia.

At the same time the legislative debate continues between two of the senate's best known members, Atiyeh and Hallock. The issue pits two men who hold widely divergent political ideas, but strangely fulfill similar roles in the Legislature.

Both are prolific bill sponsors, and they are committee chairmen as well as party leaders. Atiyeh is Senate minority leader, and while Hallock has no official position, to many people in and out of the Legislature he is their spokesperson on various issues identified with "liberal" causes.

Both are famous and both have their eye on higher positions in state government: Atiyeh ran for governor last year and Hallock made an attempt to become Senate president.

Both men are known for their wit—but in subtly different ways, and their respective brands of humor offer an insight to what they are like as legislators and as persons.

Each is a put-down artist. Hallock frequently squashes the testimony (and ego) of unprepared committee witnesses—he bores in on specific people. But Atiyeh, who usually confines his remarks to friends standing close by, usually chides the sometimes slow incomprehensible legislative process.

Here they show their main difference. Atiyeh knows how people work together, how they operate. Hallock understands ideas and how they work. This is not to say either man is deficient in the other area—they are both keenly intelligent. But when they look at nuclear power, each sees something different.

The differences—not the similarities—will become more clear as the issue develops.

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AV FILMS

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Title	Dept.	Show Date
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8 a.m. — "A Tempo"
10 a.m. — "Talk of the Town"
Noon — "Matinee Performance"
4 p.m. — "Options: in Memory of Edward R. Murrow"
5 p.m. — "All Things Considered"
6:30 p.m. — "Willen Pijer"
7 p.m. — "Contemporary French Composers"
8 p.m. — "Matinee With Wolfgang Amadeus"
8:30 p.m. — "Concert Hall"
Midnight — "KWAX-II"

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