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MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1902

THE AMENDMENTS

At the last meeting of the Associated Students four important amendments to the constitution and by-laws were introduced and read for the first time. The first two increasing the editorial staff of the Weekly and Monthly to five we feel will meet with no opposition, and therefore waive discussion. A brief discussion of the other two is in order.

The third amendment is designed to remedy an evil which has often been encountered and should have been dealt with long ago. Section 8, Article II, of the constitution makes it impossible for a member of the executive committee to enter an oratorical or debating contest. It has often happened, and may happen again, that a man most eminently qualified for a place on the executive committee has marked oratorical ability or is a natural candidate for a place on the debating team. Why should he not be allowed to serve in both capacities? If a man so qualified is forced out of either place the University suffers. Of course, it is manifestly unwise to allow a candidate for oratorical or debating honors to select his own judges. This difficulty is avoided by a provision prohibiting the contestant from participating in the selection of judges. The remaining members of the executive committee are given the right to name a member protem, who shall cooperate with them in selecting judges and providing a chairman to preside at the contest, in case both president and vice president be contestants. We see no reason

why the amendment in this form should not pass.

The fourth amendment aims to relieve the treasurer of the Associated Students of the responsibility of holding and accounting for student body funds, and to turn the money over to the steward of the University, who shall receive and hold money subject to order of the executive committee. The treasurer, so-called, will simply deposit with the steward and countersign orders drawn on him for funds. We disapprove of the whole scheme. We believe in students managing student enterprises and believe in a representative chosen from the ranks of the students handling student money. The loss of responsibility will be attended by a loss of valuable experience in holding and accounting for such funds and a loss of interest in student enterprises. It represents a dangerous tendency to turn over the management of student enterprises to an official of the University.

It may be argued that the steward of the University is a better accountant and will keep a more accurate record of receipts and expenditures and will be in a position to furnish a statement of the condition of finances at any time. We would be ashamed to acknowledge that any student chosen from one of the upper classes of the University could not keep an accurate cash account involving the receipt and expenditure of a few hundred dollars, especially when there is, or should be, a voucher for every transaction. The treasurer or some one else must furnish the steward with accurate information as to receipts and expenditures to enable him to render an intelligible account. A student who can do this can keep the account himself.

The accounts of a manager of the Weekly or Monthly are far more difficult to keep. The treasurer receives his money from the steward and the managers in relatively large sums and pays it out at the order of the executive committee. The manager receives a dollar here, a half dollar there. He pays a dollar box rent here, ten cents postage there. He has more entries, his account is harder to balance. Why not have the steward appointed manager of the papers to insure accuracy of accounts? We believe that the experience gained by the managers and the treasurer in keeping their own accounts is a valuable one and is compensation enough for their trouble.

The treasurer has failed in some instances to render an account at the proper time. He can be compelled under forfeiture of his bond to render a statement at a fixed time by inserting such a provision in the constitution.

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