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1959

THE INTELLECTUAL CLIMATE
OF THE UNIVERSITY

Report on the President's Second Faculty Conference

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Allerton House · March 13-15, 1959

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An Editorial Note

On March 13-15, 1959, a representative group of University of Illinois faculty members met with President David D. Henry at Allerton House to hold informal discussions on the theme "The Intellectual Climate of the University."

This essay, the Report on the President's Second Faculty Conference, is an attempt to follow some of the major threads of discussion to their ultimate conclusion as a consensus of all or most of the participants in that Conference.

It is not to be considered as an "abstract" nor even a "summary" of the good talk that took place during those three days at Allerton. There is no pretense that it represents everything that was said — or, indeed, that it touches on every topic which was discussed. It is limited to pointing out major recurring currents of opinion as expressed by the Conference members plus appropriate excerpts from the papers and the resolutions adopted.

Because the members of the Conference were encouraged to express their opinions informally, the quotations used in this Report are not attributed to the speakers.

Exceptions to this policy are made in the cases of President Henry, Provost Gordon Ray, and Dean Royden Dangerfield, chairman of the Conference Steering Committee.

HELEN FARLOW
Rapporteur

Committees

PRESIDENT'S SECOND FACULTY CONFERENCE

Host: President David D. Henry

Steering Committee:

Royden Dangerfield, Chairman	G. G. Jackson
E. W. Cleary, Acting Chairman	H. S. Stillwell
G. H. Bargh	E. B. Vest
J. F. Due	P. E. Yankwich
H. G. Halcrow	

Resolutions Committee:

E. W. Cleary, Chairman	J. W. Peltason
Royden Dangerfield, Secretary	A. D. Pickett
H. F. Dowling	W. H. Shoemaker
N. J. Leonard	A. H. Taub
W. H. McPherson	P. E. Yankwich

Study Committee: "The Quality of the Faculty"

E. H. Davidson, Chairman	E. B. Vest
A. H. Taub	

Study Committee: "Faculty Participation in the Formulation of Policy"

R. T. Odell, Chairman	J. W. Peltason
H. S. Gutowsky	

Study Committee: "Interchange Between Disciplines"

R. W. Janes, Chairman	D. P. Flanders
H. F. Dowling	N. J. Leonard

Editorial Committee:

Royden Dangerfield, Chairman	Helen Farlow
G. H. Bargh	Eunice Parker

Rapporteur: Helen Farlow

Schedule

PRESIDENT'S SECOND FACULTY CONFERENCE

GENERAL THEME: "THE INTELLECTUAL CLIMATE OF THE UNIVERSITY"

Friday, March 13

12:30 p.m. — Luncheon

2:00 p.m. — Discussion: "The Quality of the Faculty"

6:00 p.m. — Dinner

7:30 p.m. — Book Review: *The Academic Marketplace*, by Theodore Caplow and Reece J. McGee

Reviewer — Professor Walter Grampp

Book Review: *Some of My Best Friends Are Professors*, by George Williams

Reviewer — Professor Charles Nowell

Discussion — Dr. W. H. Cowley, Miller Professor of Higher Education

Saturday, March 14

8:00 a.m. — Breakfast

9:00 a.m. — Discussion: "Faculty Participation in Policy Formulation"

12:30 p.m. — Luncheon

2:00 p.m. — Discussion: "Interchange Between Disciplines"

6:00 p.m. — Dinner

7:30 p.m. — President's Hour

Sunday, March 15

8:00 a.m. — Breakfast

9:00 a.m. — Consideration of Resolutions

12:15 p.m. — Dinner

Adjournment

The President's Second Faculty Conference

To further internal communication, David Dodds Henry, President of the University of Illinois, invited a representative group of faculty members to meet with him March 13-15, 1959, at Allerton House.

One of the problems of a large university, he told the invited participants, is the lack of opportunity for a direct exchange of views between the President and individual members of the faculty, and among representative members of the faculty on the several campuses. The usual channels of communication, indispensable as they are, convey official and group decisions rather than personal thinking. Thus the value of thinking together through an organized discussion of issues is lacking.

The aims of the Conference were to assist in promoting understanding both by providing an opportunity for discussion of University problems and by furnishing the means by which members of the group could become better acquainted.

The Conference was, in fact as well as title, "The President's" Conference. Dr. Henry was the host; he presided at all discussion sessions; he took part in many of the informal "seminars" through which discussions continued after the sessions were dismissed.

He was aided in planning by a Steering Committee. This committee helped him set up three Study Committees, each with a topic for a prepared paper; nominated the participants in the Conference; and had responsibility for the arrangements.

The Study Committees prepared reports on three subjects: "The Quality of the Faculty," "Faculty Participation in the Formulation of Policy," and "Interchange Between Disciplines." Copies of these papers were sent to all Conference participants in advance. The discussions stemmed from them, but were not limited to them.

The Second Faculty Conference was preceded by a President's Faculty Conference, a one-day meeting in June, 1958, to which the President invited the University Council, other key administrators, committee heads, and faculty members for a discussion of a preliminary report of the University's Study Committee on Future Programs.

Two aspects of that report were mentioned frequently as policies on which assumptions of the Second Conference could safely be based. These bear repeating.

1. The University has five major responsibilities. In order of their priority, they are:

(a) Teaching, research, and scholarly and creative activity in fundamental fields of learning. [The fundamental fields were listed as mathematics, the biological and physical sciences, the humanities, the fine arts, and the social sciences.]

(b) Teaching and research in professional and occupational areas closely dependent on the fundamental fields of learning.

(c) Liberal education of those who do not intend to become highly trained specialists and, to the extent possible, of students aiming toward specialized or professional training.

(d) Vocational training in fields which are clearly of substantial and wide importance to the state and nation, especially those which require four-year programs including sound preparation in the fundamental fields of learning and which the University is uniquely or best fitted to provide.

(e) Extension education and essential public services which require the kinds and level of expertness represented in the faculty.

2. The present distribution of enrollment in the University of Illinois at the three levels (freshman-sophomore, junior-senior, and graduate) is in the ratio of 2:2:1. The report recommended that the University seek, through control of admissions, to establish a ratio approaching 2:3:2, or, to put it more generally, two freshmen and sophomores to five more advanced students.

These two statements of proposed policy were used as a frame of reference by many speakers at the Second Conference.

The President's Second Faculty Conference differed from the First Conference in many respects:

1. The Second Conference lasted three days, and was held in a rural setting, remote from the possible distractions of the campus.

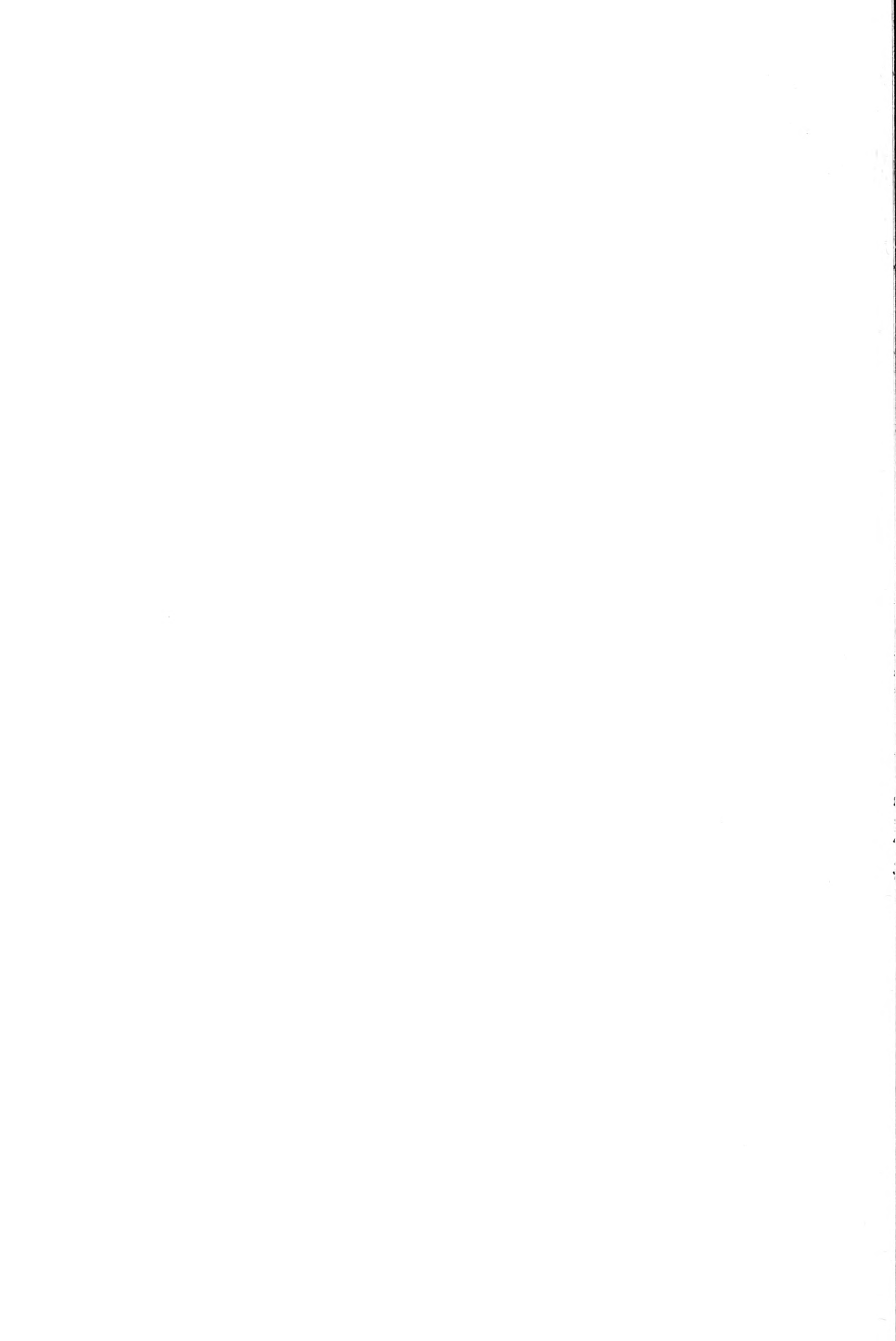
2. Its participants were, in the main, members of the teaching faculty rather than representatives of the administration. They were selected on a proportionate basis from among full professors, associate professors, and

assistant professors, and — again proportionately — included faculty from the Chicago Professional Colleges, the Chicago Undergraduate Division, and the Urbana-Champaign campus. The group consisted of “a representative group of faculty rather than a group of faculty representatives.”

The Conference discussed reports from the three Study Committees; listened to reviews of two books pertaining to the current academic scene; and invited comment on a variety of matters from the administration in an informal question-and-reply period called “The President’s Hour”; adopted a series of resolutions; and talked by the hour and by the day, in session and out.

The general tone of the Conference was described, by various participants, as “an informal gathering of faculty people,” “mutual soul-searching,” and “mutual pulse-taking — the administration took the pulse of the faculty; the faculty took the pulse of the administration. In each case, the patient was found to be in excellent condition.”

With its emphasis on informality, and with its broad scope of representation, the Conference, it must be emphasized, had no official standing. It was not an action group. Its resolutions are only recommendations, which may or may not be put into effect by appropriate agencies of the University.



The Intellectual Climate of the University



Part I: The Faculty Looks at Itself

RESOLUTION 2: The University must recruit and vigorously support persons of scholarly distinction for its faculty. Basic to the evaluation of scholarly distinction is the judgment given by the academic community, both on and off the campus, with respect to the work produced by the faculty members and to the students they teach and train.

The Conference recommends that the University establish policies governing promotions which include the following features:

(a) A principle of specified limited periods in rank, with promotion or termination of service for non-tenure positions. The policy when formulated should not be made retroactive.

(b) Promotion to and within tenure ranks should involve, in addition to departmental appraisal, the judgment of the outside academic community.

(c) While it should be a primary goal in the University's policy regarding promotion to increase the proportion of distinguished scholars on the faculty, it should also be the policy to give tenure and promotion to faculty members giving able and imaginative professional service of other types in University programs.¹

The University of Illinois should, the Conference recommended, adopt an "up or out" policy requiring that junior faculty members adjudged unsuitable for promotion should be kept on the staff only for a limited number of years.

Flanking the "up or out" statement were two complementary ideas:

1. The distinction of a great university rests on the distinction of a faculty known throughout the academic world for its excellence in scholarship and in research as mirrored by publication. Such scholarly distinction should be encouraged.

¹ The Resolutions adopted by the Conference appear in sequence on pages 33-35.

2. However, faculty excellence deserving reward and encouragement may also be attained through creative achievement, through inspired teaching, and through other kinds of imaginative service to the University.

Although it was not reflected in the resolutions, there was general informal agreement that "up or out," if it ever were adopted as a general University policy, should be suspended under certain special sets of circumstances.

"Normally, 'up or out' is an excellent idea — when and if the University and the student body are stabilized in size. But if and when there comes a sudden upsurge in enrollment — a scurrying for staff, then 'up or out' might mean 'out,' to our disadvantage," said an administrator.

How, asked another speaker, will we protect ourselves against throwing out potentially good people in poor budget years?

And the resolution was amended from the floor to be sure everyone understood that the "up or out" policy, if adopted, should not be made retroactive.

FACULTY DISTINCTION: SOME TOUCHSTONES

The report of the Study Committee on "The Quality of the Faculty" defines its title phrase as "scholarly distinction — the place the faculty has earned for itself in the world of the educated elite and in the total adventure of the human mind."

By a show of hands, a large majority of the conferees expressed the view that scholarly distinction should not be described by that academic barb "publish or perish," but should also be considered to mean "teaching, creative worth, and service to the University."

President Henry summed up three kinds of worth which should be taken into account when policies are being adopted regarding University promotion, salary advances, and tenure: (1) published scholarship; (2) scholarship not reflected in publication; (3) other kinds of professional service not measured by either of these.

TEACHING "VERSUS" RESEARCH

Teaching and research are not incompatible. Both the distinguished research scholar and the faculty member with creative gifts of another sort are apt to be excellent teachers.

Through three days of "heated agreement," the Conference came at last to this conclusion.

The perennial argument of teaching versus research, called by one participant "the old bugaboo which always come up like a tired old ghost — that the researcher is always a bad teacher; that a non-researcher is automatically a good teacher," was disposed of, in the end, by mutual agreement.

President Henry contributed a quotation from a talk made by alumnus Mark Van Doren at a Convocation for Midyear Graduates of the University of Illinois, January 26, 1958:

"Now, to measure a school by its teachers is not to measure it by the only item that matters," Van Doren said on that occasion. "Doubtless the item that matters most is the subjects that are taught: the things the students will be asked to learn. But the student meets the subject in the teacher, and the teacher for that simple reason never ceases to be crucial in the drama of learning. Just as the content of a mind cannot be known until a voice delivers it, so it may be said that a subject does not exist until the student hears it in the words of his teacher. And if these are good words, the subject, too, seems good. It seems better yet when style distinguishes the words. The proof of any statement is finally in its style, by which I mean its precision, its beauty, and its personal force. Teachers, then, are the voices of a university; and its best teachers may be thought of as those who deliver its content, its meaning and its truth, in such a way that they themselves become its style."

HOW TO ATTRACT AND HOLD A DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

RESOLUTION 8: The Conference approves the efforts of the administration to secure adequate buildings and facilities. It is urged that efforts be continued to this end. Indispensable elements in maintaining a faculty of quality are, among others, adequate space for study, research, instruction of classes, and other teaching activities. In addition to these physical facilities, further improvements of our libraries and their services and greater availability of secretarial services are needed.

In planning University facilities, the promotion of greater faculty unity and informal interdisciplinary contacts should be given consideration.

Many kinds of inducements can be used effectively, under different sets of circumstances, in attracting and maintaining a faculty of recognized excellence, the Conference decided. How effective any one or any combination of these may be at a given moment is determined by the University's resources, both real and intangible.

Some kinds of "bait" which may be useful include:

1. Attractive salaries.
2. Good working conditions, including adequate and attractive space for classrooms, seminars, offices, and the promotion of faculty fellowship.
3. The prospect of advancement.
4. The prestige of the department concerned ("quality attracts quality").
5. The attraction of fringe benefits.

The problem was stated in the Study Paper on "The Quality of the Faculty" as "a shortage of well-qualified faculty people — that educated elite which is to provide the incentive and offer the preparation for the young people of intellectual ability who will be the leaders of the future. Every department of the University is having difficulty recruiting young people of high quality who will staff that department. . . ."

The Study Paper suggests, "While the salary is obviously of considerable importance in inducing a young person to come to the University, it is more important to be able to show the candidate that he has a future; that he has a chance to demonstrate his ability and achieve distinction not only in his early years when his ability is under careful scrutiny but in all the years ahead."

Despite this disclaimer of salaries as a major factor in attracting and holding staff, the Conference devoted a large amount of time to discussion of the salary topic. Adequate physical facilities also were discussed at length.

Salary schedules must compete with those of other educational institutions so that the University can keep its place in what an administrator calls "the rating that goes on."

Moreover, salaries must be attractive not only for younger faculty members on the lower rungs of the ladder, but also must be geared to retain those who have achieved distinction.

The University has made great steps, the Conference agreed, in putting in a minimum salary scale, and is deserving of credit for its present long-range efforts to make this a realistic scale.

The existence of this scale, and the constant effort to improve it, make up "a recruitment inducement, and an inducement which will help retain promising younger men," it was stated.

If salaries were "Topic A" in this part of the discussion, buildings and space requirements undoubtedly were "Topic B."

Good working conditions — space, equipment, and other facilities — have become "a vital consideration in the recruitment and retention of personnel," Dr. Henry said.

At the University of Illinois, the fact remains that half its current building needs would be vitally needed even if enrollment did not increase by as much as a single student. The sad fact, he continued, is that "university research is in second priority as far as the general public understanding is concerned. A public which reveres research in industry and medicine has not yet learned to translate that interest in terms of the dollars in the [university] budget."

As for fringe benefits, here again business and industry have the edge over what the academic world can offer.

But, as a conference member emphasized, there are "plus values" at the University of Illinois which can be mentioned when such minus factors as space come up for discussion.

He listed some of these "plus values" as: the way the University supports field projects; the way it makes office help available in research projects; the University library service, "known all over the country and the world"; the sympathetic attention to requests that the University affords younger members of the faculty.

Another plus factor at the University of Illinois, Dr. Henry added, is the fact that "Illinois is on the high side in providing research funds," whereas in many institutions, research is carried on 100 per cent with funds which can be raised from outside sources for the purpose — or not at all.

As a cultural fringe benefit another participant listed "the School of Music (and its many concerts) as an excellent example — but perhaps there could be more programs in the other arts."

A College of Medicine spokesman said, wistfully, "To us, who have to commute to our University, we feel that this [Urbana-Champaign] campus has everything culturally — the arts, and the opportunity to communicate with your colleagues. Maybe this is a case of the grass being a little greener. . . ."

The Conference, as a group, emphasized that fringe benefits need to be multiplied and improved.

An adequate University Club, someone said, would prevent "a dangerous kind of capsulation into our little 'separatalities,' where we feel very warm and very comfortable, indeed."

The need for space was emphasized and re-emphasized.

A chemist: "My books rise to the ceiling — I don't know where they'll go after that. I'm informed they can't go home. But in other parts of Liberal Arts and Sciences I am dismayed at the multiple offices [where several faculty members share a single small room]."

An architect: "How about three other classes being taught in the same room at the same time with your own class?"

There were pleas that the discussion "include the character of space — the aesthetic stimulation of the University environment."

Spokesman for the Building Program Committee: "The Committee is not at all unconcerned with aesthetics, but the question in a lot of cases comes down to how we're going to [find the money to] get a roof on a building."

And, to facilitate an interchange of views with students and with other faculty members, and to promote faculty rapport, a strong case was made for the need for faculty lounges and/or other proper settings in University buildings for the seminar, the informal discussion, and the coffee hour. Such factors, the Conference was assured, are being taken into consideration by the administration and the Building Program Committee in the long-range planning of future construction and remodeling.

A spokesman suggested that an important recruitment inducement would be existence of a University policy hastening tenure status for promising younger faculty men.

Provost Ray: "We have done this. . . . I can cite some statistics. In 1946, 60 per cent of the staff was at the instructor or assistant professor level, and 40 per cent at associate professor or full professor level. Ten years later these proportions were exactly reversed."

President Henry: "There is a general feeling that we ought not extend the ratio of the upper ranks farther than it now is."

THE INTERPRETATIVE ROLE OF THE FACULTY

Is a faculty "an island, entire of itself," or does it have a responsibility to represent its University before the public, and to interpret the University to the world at large?

This question came up several times during the Conference, and was raised during "The President's Hour," an unstructured evening session during which President Henry agreed to comment on any question brought up from the floor.

He was asked to — and did — speak to various queries and statements on such diverse matters of faculty interest as coordination of statewide planning for higher education; "on such matters as . . ." the emergence and the desirability of encouraging establishment of junior colleges; and what were

called certain differences in operational procedures at the Chicago Undergraduate Division and at Urbana-Champaign.

The question of faculty responsibility for public relations came up when President Henry was asked to comment upon "the somewhat more aggressive and less conservative" approach to the Legislature and to budget requests which has been adopted by certain other educational institutions.

"Our history shows our [conservative] method has been successful," Dr. Henry said. "It has worked. . . . The question is: Since it has worked in the past, will it continue to do so?"

He cited examples from other states where super-promotional, aggressive tactics have seemed successful, but added, in regard to this University's factual, truthful approach, a personal comment: "I personally could not subscribe to its being done in any other way," he said frankly. "Our way is completely honest and we can believe in it. Any of us can stand before any group of citizens and discuss our budget requests and be confident of their reliability — and have no excuses. Thus our fight for resources can be a cause for us all."

Then, in a prepared statement — his only one during the three-day Conference — President Henry added: "After meeting with two General Assemblies, numerous meetings of citizens, alumni, parents, and others on countless other occasions throughout the State over nearly four years, I want to say as directly as I know how that the University is in a serious competition for the interested attention of the people of the State. Unless we gain that attention, we shall not have the priority of support given in the past or seriously needed at present.

"By attention, I do not mean the passing interest given to current events or public occasions. I refer to the continuing concern for the welfare of the University and an abiding feeling of the direct relationship between what the University stands for and what it does and the personal welfare of the individual citizens and of the State community. Widespread personal commitment by citizens to work for the advancement of the University is needed to have the University survive in the present competition.

"By competition, I do not refer to the programs of other universities. I refer to all the things that claim the citizen's attention and which he measures as a part of his welfare — his concern with public expenditures and taxes, with national defense, with highways and local civic services, with appeals for private charity, with job opportunities, with increased costs of living, with political issues.

"To be a winner in this kind of competition, and one's place in the race will be reflected in Springfield, not determined there, the entire University

staff must aggressively and persistently be engaged in the business of interpreting the University to the people. No organization in the President's office can do it adequately; no public information program will suffice. Every staff member, particularly the faculty, must do his part — with his professional constituency, with students and alumni, with friends, with neighbors and relatives. There are 9,000 staff members, 25,000 students, 120,000 living degree graduates, 40,000 to 50,000 parents. Aroused, informed, concerned, these people can determine the future of the University.

“Such results will not come from exhortations of the President or from the best of plans in public relations offices. They will come when every department, every college, every unit of the University's life organizes itself to take part in this work as actively as it now engages in its other main-line functions — teaching and research. Interpretation is the third dimension of the professional responsibility of the faculty member.”

Part II: Communication Within the University

RESOLUTION 3: Effective faculty participation in formulation of policy requires wide dissemination of pertinent information. The Conference recommends the publication of a regular newsletter to be sent to all members of the faculty. Such a newsletter should include agenda of the three Senates and summaries of minutes of the Senates, summaries of selected committee reports, policy statements, and reports of major developments.

RESOLUTION 6: The Conference recognizes the need for much interchange among the three campuses and recommends that all possible means be taken to increase the exchanges that now exist. This may be implemented by: closed-circuit television, adequate distribution of directories and weekly or monthly calendars among the several campuses, interchange of instructors for shorter and longer periods of time, development of joint research efforts, participation in special events at one campus by members of the other faculties, and more complete use of a visitor's time and talents when he is on another campus.

RESOLUTION 7: The Conference is pleased to learn that there is much interchange between disciplines on the three campuses and at all levels. Whenever both the interest and the need for interdisciplinary and interdepartmental approaches exist, programs joining disciplines should be encouraged.

The Conference believes that under certain conditions joint appointments are advantageous and should be possible whenever advisable.

The Conference favors the cross-listing of courses and the avoidance and elimination of duplication of courses of the same content.

The faculty, as mirrored in the Conference, wants closer ties with colleagues elsewhere in the University and opportunities to work with them and to exchange views with them. It wants to be "in the know" about University policy while it is in the process of formation. It wishes to have

access to the administrative ear. It wants the freedom to explore burgeoning new fields of knowledge without the restrictions of traditional departmental lines.

COMMUNICATION AND INTERCHANGE BETWEEN DISCIPLINES

Entire areas of knowledge are exploding with a force never before experienced in the history of learning.

As a result, University scholars, researchers, and teachers are questioning the barriers arbitrarily imposed through the departmental system of administration. They feel that knowledge often can no longer be kept in neat, air-tight compartments labeled with the names of fields of specialization — that it needs to be released so that it can cross old boundaries and form new associations with other disciplines.

Several ways through which interdisciplinary approaches might be encouraged were suggested at the Conference. These included:

1. Cross-listing of courses and elimination of duplication of those with similar or identical content offered in more than one department or college.
2. Joint appointments in more than one department for faculty working in a combination of fields.
3. Administrative encouragement of interdisciplinary ventures.

“How can faculty excellence be encouraged through interdisciplinary approaches?” one participant asked. “This must be done by the departments themselves. But if it can be done, it will improve the intellectual climate of the University.”

Said another: “We keep specializing — splintering off. I think the problem [of interdisciplinary approaches] should be solved professionally, and not by administrative action.”

Many interdisciplinary activities and projects already are being carried on successfully at the University of Illinois, and others are being considered, it was emphasized.

The computer program, the Control Systems Laboratory, various research and teaching projects, many joint appointments — all these were cited.

But, Conference members added, difficulties can sometimes plague a faculty member or group involved in interdisciplinary activities. These include:

1. A fear that it may be hard to attract “a flow of graduate students”

into interdisciplinary work, and equally hard to place them in jobs after they finish their graduate work.

2. The danger that a man engaged in interdisciplinary projects involving work in or with two or more departments and, perhaps, a joint appointment between them may be passed over when it comes time for promotion or salary increases.

But despite these possible hazards the Conference was solidly behind the idea of the desirability of interdisciplinary projects and associations.

"The answer to the success of interdepartmental programs is dedicated people," said one.

"I think we are agreed," said another, "that interdisciplinary exchange includes skill in one discipline, with interest enough in another to bridge the gap!"

Said President Henry: "Each group will probably find its own answer. . . . I think we're all agreed on the desirability of interdisciplinary research, teaching, and association."

COMMUNICATION THROUGH INTERCHANGE BETWEEN CAMPUSES

A "sense of common membership in the faculty" should be encouraged through greater communication and interchange between campuses.

This consensus was arrived at by the Conference with some enthusiasm, with no argument, and with a minimum of discussion. It was based on a section in the Study Paper on "Interchange Between Disciplines," plus an eloquent statement by a spokesman from the Chicago Professional Colleges.

In promoting interchange among the University's campuses, the Study Paper emphasized, geographical separation is added to the factors of administrative and disciplinary separation. "At present, the isolation of each from the other two can hardly be underestimated, and the virtual anonymity of the three faculties to one another is such that we rarely envisage interaction or interchange with the other faculties as we go about our tasks of teaching and research."

The comments of the Chicago Professional Colleges' spokesman brought out these points:

1. The three faculties of the University of Illinois have much to offer one another. The Chicago Professional Colleges, for instance, have access to funds for research projects in which colleagues from other campuses might participate, perhaps on an interdisciplinary basis, to the benefit of all.

2. The Chicago Professional Colleges have clinical facilities which might be of benefit in making case studies of patients available to students and to faculty scholars from other disciplines.

3. Machinery might be set up through which a faculty member visiting on another campus of the University could have his time budgeted so that he could confer or work with other faculty members, interview students, etc., during time ordinarily lost.

4. Closed-circuit television could be utilized for committee meetings requiring participation by faculty from more than one campus.

5. An interchange of instructors would break down some of the barriers between campuses. ("We have visiting professors from Harvard and Duke, but not Urbana.")

6. Cultural interchange might be fostered and encouraged by having those on one campus attend special events at the others. ("Isn't it a little strange that we have a Chicago Day for a football game but not for the Arts Festival?")

TOWARD BETTER COMMUNICATION

Establishment of a "house organ" or faculty newsletter was proposed and heartily endorsed in the Conference as a possible means of keeping University of Illinois faculty members up to date on policy in the making.

Some comments leading up to this conclusion by the participants include:

"We often don't know about new University programs until they are announced. . . . We have no way of being heard before a matter is decided."

"One of the things I have heard at the Pier is that the men do not know what's going on in the University as a whole."

"In six years on the campus I've never known what alternate policies were under review, or how to channel an idea. . . . We find out about policy when we know it's too late to change it."

"We need a house organ or newsletter which would tell us what policies are being considered; what new courses are being planned. . . . It would help communication between departments, and communication between the faculty and the administration. It would improve faculty morale."

Conversely, administrative spokesmen expressed serious doubts that a faculty house organ would be a feasible and effective answer to the desire of the faculty to be "in the know."

President Henry indicated the idea would be given serious examination.

Part III: The Faculty and University Policy

RESOLUTION 1: The educational programs of the University must be subjected to a continuing process of examination and re-examination. This process should be governed by the principles for growth of the University set forth in the First Report of the University Study Committee on Future Programs. To that end the Conference recommends that:

(a) The Three Senate Committees on Educational Policy assume a broader responsibility and manifest an increased interest and initiative in broad educational problems and programs;

(b) A decision to undertake a new program be influenced strongly by the effect it would have on the intellectual climate of the University;

(c) The Senate Committees on Educational Policy assign priorities to new educational programs for the guidance of the University Committee on the Budget, the University Building Program Committee, and administrative officials;

(d) Existing programs be re-examined to determine those no longer warranted with a view to freeing resources for strengthening other fields.

RESOLUTION 4: It is the sense of the Conference that the bases of the Senates should be broadened either by making them elective representative bodies or by enlarging their memberships to include ranks other than that of professor.

RESOLUTION 5: The Conference recommends that the Urbana-Champaign and the Chicago Professional Colleges Senates consider the election of steering committees.

The Conference also emphasized these points:

1. Consideration should be given to making Senate membership more representative of the faculty as a whole.

2. Appointment of Senate steering committees in Urbana and the Chicago

Professional Colleges might give these bodies machinery through which policy ideas could be brought up for preview and review.

3. Appointment of faculty members to administrative committees does not constitute "faculty participation."

4. The faculty should not confuse administrative functions — which are best left to the administrators — with those functions about which the faculty should concern itself because of their effect on the intellectual climate of the University.

5. Because of budget limitations, the faculty should help discourage and/or eliminate new or continuing programs of lesser value, and priorities should be set up to assist in this task.

Moreover, the Conference decided — with considerable agreement — that it is the faculty's own fault (individually and collectively) if there is a lack of faculty participation in the making of policy on any of a number of fronts: budget, educational programs, athletics, student activities, and so on. In the last analysis, it was decided, the key is faculty initiative, or the lack of it.

REPRESENTATION AND THE SENATES

"The Senate, in its current makeup, can't be considered representative of the faculty," said a Conference participant.

Dean Dangerfield: "The Senate on the Urbana-Champaign campus is a large body — it's too large to be a deliberative body. It works through its committees. By and large the Senate knows what is going to come up beforehand — generally ten days to a month before. The Senate is not a representative body. The Senate member has no obligation to talk matters over with his department. The person is a member of the Senate by virtue of rank."

In more than two hours of discussion, the Conference emphasized that:

1. Under existing University statutes, each of the three Senates — at Urbana-Champaign, at the Chicago Professional Colleges, and at the Chicago Undergraduate Division — may elect any additional persons, of any rank, which it may choose. Some doubt was expressed that the Senates, as presently constituted, will agree so to act.

2. The Senates work through committees. Thus, the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may, if he likes, bring details on the budget during its evolution back to his committee and/or the full Senate

at any stage in the process, and can take the views of his colleagues back to the administrative University Budget Committee, of which he automatically is a member. Likewise, the Senate Committee on Educational Policy may take up any matters dealing with educational policy which it chooses to consider.

President Henry reminded the group of a remark made by Albert J. Harno, Dean Emeritus of the University of Illinois College of Law. After extensive study of national educational administrative patterns, Dean Harno said that the University of Illinois probably has the most democratic organization of any university in the United States.

WHO STEERS?

Senate steering committees at Urbana-Champaign and the Chicago Professional Colleges should be formed to provide avenues through which consideration of University policy might be brought before the faculty, the Conference decided.

Said one speaker: "Effective use could be made of the faculty if there were a cabinet or executive committee of the Senate which could get away from the 'town meeting' aspect of the Senate."

Senate steering committees, said another, would "prod the collective consciences of our Senates."

At the request of the persons at the Conference from the Navy Pier faculty, no steering committee was recommended for the Senate of the Chicago Undergraduate Division.

THE FACULTY MAN AND THE COMMITTEE

The University of Illinois has, at last count, fifty-seven all-University committees devoted in varying degrees to aspects of policy making and/or administration.

In many cases, faculty members serving on these committees are appointed to them by the President.

Should they be elected by the faculty or named through the Committee on Committees of the Senate?

The Conference thought the matter over and decided they should continue to be appointed by the President.

For one thing, the members decided, election of faculty members of

major committees might destroy the important rapport which the President and his administrative officers now enjoy with the faculty members having special qualifications whom they seek out as advisers.

Also, committee "elections" would tend to confuse the already hazy distinction between the two separate functions of policy-making and administration.

"There is," said Dr. Henry, "a no man's land between policy and practice. The question often arises, what is policy and what is administration? Most policy committees which have recognition as such are Senate committees, and are appointed through the faculty.

"In the effort at the University of Illinois to get faculty advice and opinion, the administration has established committees advisory to the administrative function. These are really not policy committees. Perhaps we have erred in having too many committees. . . . Their existence, however, has been an outcome of the wish of the University administration to have broader faculty consultation."

PROGRAMS ON PARADE

Because of the urgent need to provide funds and facilities for University programs of the highest importance, the Conference felt that the faculty — as individuals, as departments, as colleges, as Senates — should undertake two major and continuing tasks:

1. The review of all programs on a recurring basis, and the elimination of any which might be judged of lesser importance.
2. The establishment of a system of priorities which would govern the position and support given to possible new undertakings.

The priorities would not only deal with the relative importance of various types of University activities to the total undertaking, as given in the First Report of the University Study Committee on Future Programs,¹ but also would list in order specific new projects which had been approved by the University Senates.

The University's present biennial budget request is based not on the need for new programs but on the necessity for enlarging, extending, and improving present programs, President Henry said. New programs are in competition with present obligations and should be assessed very carefully as to financial requirements as well as educational desirability.

¹ See *Abstract of Proceedings of the President's Faculty Conference* (1958), p. 25.

THE PHYSICAL PLANT DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 9: The Conference recommends that each of the three Senates establish an ad hoc committee to survey the policies and practices of the Physical Plant Department as they affect the educational programs of the University.

President Henry stated that physical plant costs and organization at Illinois are comparable to those of other institutions, but that ways to improve both are being studied intensively. Interested Senate committees will be given information from these studies.

THE ROADS NOT TAKEN

The Conference Resolutions Committee submitted fourteen resolutions; eleven were adopted.

The three resolutions which were voted down are interesting and important because their very rejection mirrors the mood of the Conference. All three of these rejected resolutions were aimed at increasing faculty participation in the formation of University policy.

One would have recommended that the Senate Committees on the Budget be given greater power; another, that the three Senates create building committees from whose rosters would be chosen the faculty members of the all-University Building Program Committee; the third, that faculty members on the Athletic Association Board be chosen from among members of the Urbana-Champaign Senate Committee on Athletics.

The first resolution — that on the Senate Committee on the Budget — was voted down after opinion crystallized around three ideas:

1. The chairmen of the Senate Committees on the Budget serve on the all-University Committee; the degree of the Senate Committees' participation in budget-making policy depends, to a great degree, on whether or not their chairmen have the initiative and the committees have the interest to follow the budget building process and express views accordingly.

2. A sizeable segment of the faculty already plays an important part in budget building, during the early stages, on departmental and/or college levels.

3. Many final budget allocation decisions have to be made in the summer, toward or after the end of the legislative session, when faculty members have scattered for their vacations. Requiring sanction of faculty groups for minor budget decisions during this season would pose many practical problems.

The vote against the second rejected resolution — that regarding formation of Senate building committees — was based on discussions through which the Conference arrived at the general conclusion that new building committees could only usurp or confuse functions of the present all-University Committee. These functions are, in essence, administrative functions, and new committees would only succeed in causing unnecessary duplication of effort.

On athletics, the group was in agreement that intercollegiate athletics at this University are handled in a manner which brings credit to the institution in educational circles as well as on the sports pages.

The specific resolution — that faculty members of the Athletic Association Board be selected from among members of the Senate Committee on Athletics — was voted down on the ground that this would reduce faculty participation in the formation of athletic policy from its present eleven men — seven on the Senate Committee and four more on the Athletic Board — to a low of only seven. It also was pointed out that the Athletic Board faculty members are, as a matter of tradition, chosen from among former members of the Senate Committee on Athletics.

In Conclusion

RESOLUTION 10: The bettering of communication between members of the faculty and the central administration, outside the formal University organization, is important. The President should decide whether a conference of this nature is sufficiently effective, as one means of meeting this need, to justify continuance. In arriving at his decision, the President may wish to secure the views of the participants.

RESOLUTION 11: The Conference wishes to thank the President for the opportunity for full and frank expression of opinion regarding University problems. It wishes to express its appreciation of the President's confidence in the faculty and reciprocally to express its confidence in the University administration.

The President's First and Second Faculty Conferences originally were envisioned as the initial meetings in an annual series.

Each year, according to plan, a new set of participants would be invited. The Conferences, therefore, eventually would include a large number of University faculty members in the discussions of basic University problems. The topics, like the roll of participants, would be newly chosen each year. Continuity would be achieved through the Steering Committee, which might be chosen from among participants of the previous year's Conference.

But does a meeting like the Conference accomplish its fundamental purposes of communication, interdisciplinary association, improvement of morale, and the establishment of mutual good will between the faculty and the administration?

The resolutions passed by the Second Conference, and the enthusiastic personal reactions at the close of the meeting, seem to indicate that it does.

THE CONFERENCE POLL

President Henry, wishing to have data on which to base a decision regarding continuation of the annual Conferences, asked the Secretary of the Steering Committee to poll the people who took part in the Allerton House meeting.

The questions asked were:

1. Do you recommend that the Faculty Conference be continued as an annual event?
2. Please comment on the following:
 - Physical arrangements for the Conference
 - Length and timing of the Conference
 - Role of the study papers
 - Value of the book review session
 - President's Hour
3. What benefits do you feel you received from the Conference?
4. Should meetings of this nature be held in the future, what topics would you suggest for consideration?
5. Should meetings of this nature be held in the future, what improvements would you suggest?

THE CONFERENCE IN RETROSPECT

The votes were unanimously in favor of continuation of the Conferences on an annual basis.

The members of the Second Conference also were overwhelmingly in favor of the value of the President's Hour. A few suggested minor changes in other parts of the programming.

Benefits which participants felt they had received were a reflection of the enthusiastic spirit in which the Conference closed.

The faculty members felt they had acquired better acquaintanceship with members of the administration and had benefited by learning, at first hand, of administration respect for the faculty. They felt that they had, in fact, been heard on many matters of importance to the University, and that the Conference was a valuable avenue of communication in a world too often corseted by "channels," "protocol," and prescribed procedures.

Appendices



Resolutions

PRESIDENT'S SECOND FACULTY CONFERENCE

At the close of the President's Second Faculty Conference agreement was indicated on the following points. It should not be assumed, however, that every participant necessarily subscribed to every detail of every statement.

RESOLUTION 1. The educational programs of the University must be subjected to a continuing process of examination and re-examination. This process should be governed by the principles for growth of the University set forth in the First Report of the University Study Committee on Future Programs.¹ To that end the Conference recommends that:

(a) The three Senate Committees on Educational Policy assume a broader responsibility and manifest an increased interest and initiative in broad educational problems and programs;

(b) A decision to undertake a new program be influenced strongly by the effect it would have on the intellectual climate of the University;

(c) The Senate Committees on Educational Policy assign priorities to new educational programs for the guidance of the University Committee on the Budget, the University Building Program Committee, and administrative officials;

(d) Existing programs be re-examined to determine those no longer warranted with a view to freeing resources for strengthening other fields.

RESOLUTION 2. The University must recruit and vigorously support persons of scholarly distinction for its faculty. Basic to the evaluation of scholarly distinction is the judgment given by the academic community, both on and off the campus, with respect to the work produced by the faculty members and to the students they teach and train.

¹ See *Abstract of Proceedings of the President's Faculty Conference* (1958), pp. 25-26.

The Conference recommends that the University establish policies governing promotions which include the following features:

(a) A principle of specified limited periods in rank, with promotion or termination of service for non-tenure positions. The policy when formulated should not be made retroactive.

(b) Promotion to and within tenure ranks should involve, in addition to departmental appraisal, the judgment of the outside academic community.

(c) While it should be a primary goal in the University's policy regarding promotion to increase the proportion of distinguished scholars on the faculty, it should also be the policy to give tenure and promotion to faculty members giving able and imaginative professional service of other types in University programs.

RESOLUTION 3. Effective faculty participation in formulation of policy requires wide dissemination of pertinent information. The Conference recommends the publication of a regular newsletter to be sent to all members of the faculty. Such a newsletter should include agenda of the three Senates and summaries of minutes of the Senates, summaries of selected committee reports, policy statements, and reports of major developments.

RESOLUTION 4. It is the sense of the Conference that the bases of the Senates should be broadened either by making them elective representative bodies or by enlarging their memberships to include ranks other than that of professor.

RESOLUTION 5. The Conference recommends that the Urbana-Champaign and the Chicago Professional Colleges Senates consider the election of steering committees.

RESOLUTION 6. The Conference recognizes the need for much interchange among the three campuses and recommends that all possible means be taken to increase the exchanges that now exist. This may be implemented by: closed-circuit television, adequate distribution of directories and weekly or monthly calendars among the several campuses, interchange of instructors for shorter and longer periods of time, development of joint research efforts, participation in special events at one campus by members of the other faculties, and more complete use of a visitor's time and talents when he is on another campus.

RESOLUTION 7. The Conference is pleased to learn that there is much interchange between disciplines on the three campuses and at all levels.

Whenever both the interest and the need for interdisciplinary and inter-departmental approaches exist, programs joining disciplines should be encouraged.

The Conference believes that under certain conditions joint appointments are advantageous and should be possible whenever advisable.

The Conference favors the cross-listing of courses and the avoidance and elimination of duplication of courses of the same content.

RESOLUTION 8. The Conference approves the efforts of the administration to secure adequate buildings and facilities. It is urged that efforts be continued to this end. Indispensable elements in maintaining a faculty of quality are, among others, adequate space for study, research, instruction of classes, and other teaching activities. In addition to these physical facilities, further improvements of our libraries and their services and greater availability of secretarial services are needed.

In planning University facilities, the promotion of greater faculty unity and informal interdisciplinary contacts should be given consideration.

RESOLUTION 9. The Conference recommends that each of the three Senates establish an ad hoc committee to survey the policies and practices of the Physical Plant Department as they affect the educational programs of the University.

RESOLUTION 10. The bettering of communication between members of the faculty and the central administration, outside the formal University organization, is important. The President should decide whether a conference of this nature is sufficiently effective, as one means of meeting this need, to justify continuance. In arriving at his decision the President may wish to secure the views of the participants.

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March 15, 1959

Participants

PRESIDENT'S SECOND FACULTY CONFERENCE

Allerton House, March 13-15, 1959

Code:

SC Study Committees
SCom Steering Committee
CR Committee on Resolutions

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CPC Chicago Professional Colleges
CUD Chicago Undergraduate Division
AU All-University

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Nicholas Britsky (UC)
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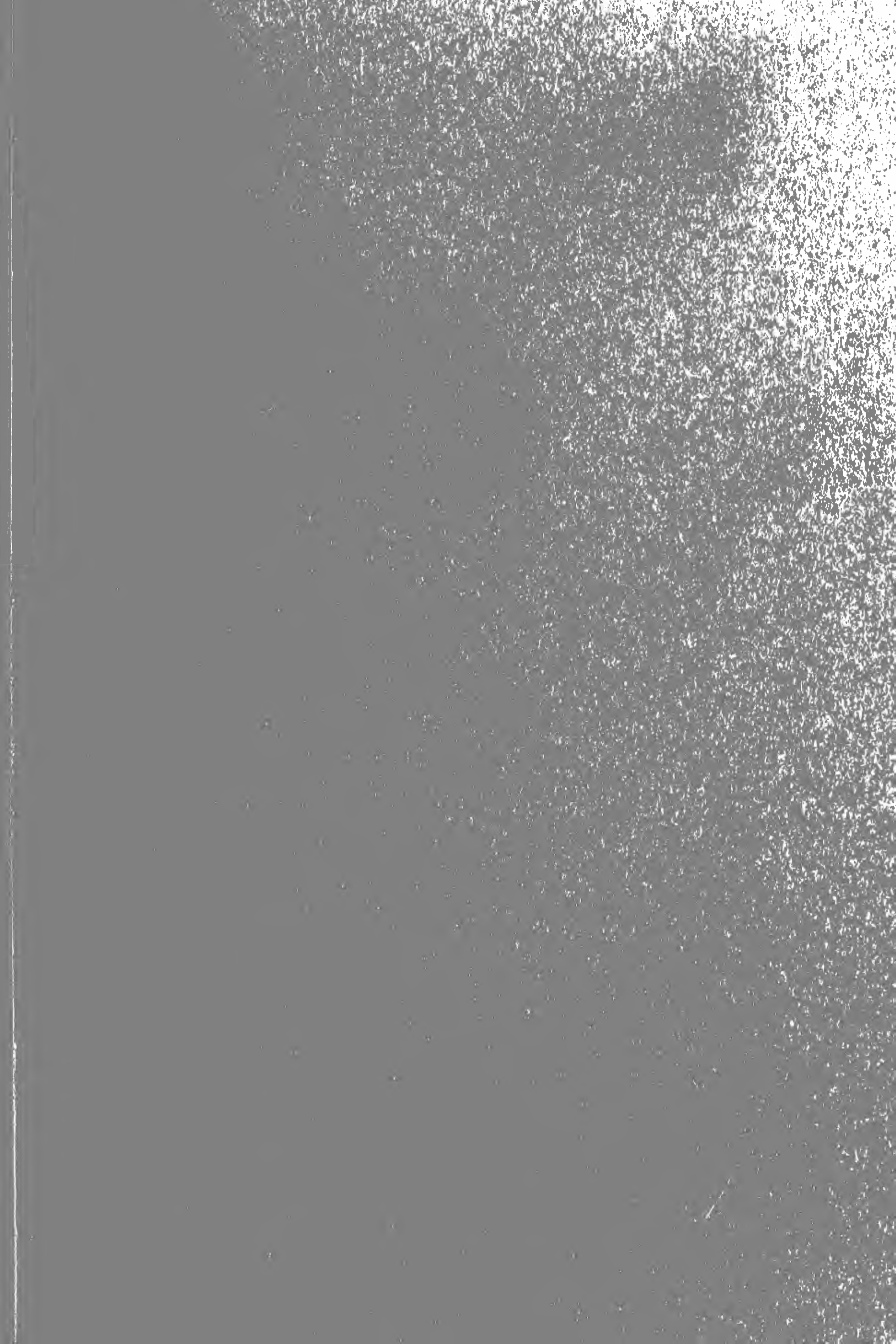
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