

FAC 007.1 February 22, 1980

REPORT OF THE FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO THE FACULTY SENATE

SUBJECT: Attempts by the Committee to Define and Clarify its Role, and the Role of Committees in General.

This report will make clear some of the frustration which the current chairman and the Fiscal Affairs Committee members have felt in attempting to perform their duty as a committee of the Faculty Senate. This report is portrayed against a background of steady (and healthy) insistence by the Chairman of the Senate that all committees be active and give regular Reports to the Senate.

The Fiscal Affairs Committee suggests that the following activities are ones with which it should expect to be routinely involved:

1. Dissemination of Information regarding the University's expenditures of funds.
2. Dissemination of Information on Policies and Guidelines used by the Administration to make decisions on Budgetary Allocations and Fiscal Exigencies.
3. Being familiar with the Budget, the Accounts, and the Expenditures of the University, so as to be able to serve in a Resource capacity for the Senate.
4. Being reactive to questions arising in the Senate, in the faculty at large, or within the Committee which pertain to the Fiscal Affairs of the University.

The following types of studies or activities are ones which have been determined by the Committee as being unreasonable to ask the Committee to undertake:

1. Determinations of areas of the University's expenditures where cuts of a disproportionate nature should be made. The Committee may report expenditures, but it does not deem itself to be invested with the expertise to make the necessary evaluations (Every area which the committee has been asked to study is clearly justifiable in the minds of those employed in the area as well as many others across campus). The Committee observes that "going public" with expenditures is probably the most the Committee can do; and that should do more to prevent the development of abuses than anything that might be done.
2. Witch Hunting. The Committee does not see its job as relentlessly searching for things that are not as they should be in the University's fiscal affairs. On the other hand, the Committee does see its task as one of studying specific areas which are called to the attention of

the Senate, wherein there may be indications of fiscal excesses, fiscal irresponsibility, or perhaps "secretive" fiscal operations which should be revealed. There have been very few such requests for study in the last 3 years. The record of the Fiscal Affairs Committee will show that a quick response has always been forthcoming when a specific request for study was made in writing.

In conclusion, the members of the Fiscal Affairs Committee wish to speak against the notion that every committee of the Senate should be continually meeting, continually lifting rocks to see what will crawl out, and continually reporting to the Senate. It is felt that meetings for the sake of meeting and reports for the sake of reporting may make the Senate appear to be a well-oiled, fully functioning machine, but such practices tend to discourage attendance at necessary committee meetings and blunt the enthusiasm of committee members for facing real challenges when they do arise. Therefore, the Senate Agenda should consist of reports, resolutions, etc. which have been submitted to the Senate office by the prescribed deadline and which have been distributed to the Senate Membership ahead of time. The Senate Agenda should not suggest a report from a committee, when that committee has submitted no report.