TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Institutional Goals & Planning Committee

RE: Head vs. Chair Debate

On Nov. 11, 1986, an Ad Hoc Committee to Study Departmental Governance submitted a report to President Alexander which outlined the history of departmental governance at Western as well as the potential advantages and disadvantages of the chair and head forms of government. The committee recommended that the University change from the head to the chair form of government, and outlined the roles and responsibilities of a chair. Subsequent to this, the faculty senate polled the faculty as a whole with respect to this issue and found that the opinion of the faculty was divided. In order to address the issues raised by the ad hoc committee, the Institutional Goals and Planning Committee makes the following recommendation:

We recommend that the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs prepare a manual for department heads which incorporates the findings and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee to study Departmental Governance. This manual should delineate the roles and responsibilities of a department head, as well as the roles and responsibilities of faculty and administration in the selection and evaluation of department heads and in departmental governance. We further recommend that the manual be sent to the Senate for review and discussion prior to its submission to the Board of Regents.