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WELCOME AND INVITATION

The membership of this organization takes this opportunity to welcome all new faculty members to our campus. It is our hope that you will find your life here one of service, enjoyment and satisfaction. You have no doubt become aware that there are several avenues for faculty participation in university affairs. We have a growing and active chapter of the AAUP. The Conference Committee consists of elected representatives of the faculty and is empowered by University Bylaws to formulate and present to the President policies which effect the Faculty or any member of the instructional staff. Regularly scheduled faculty meetings offer a further avenue for the faculty to make known its position on many matters of University policy. It is anticipated that a Faculty Senate will soon be instituted. We believe, however, that all these institutions can be supplemented and strengthened by a strong and active independent faculty organization which exists to advance our professional standards and working conditions. This is the purpose of the AFT and we hope that you will want to become a part of this organization (this invitation is also extended cordially to members of the faculty who are not new this year). Further information regarding this organization can be obtained from our newly elected president, Lloyd Lapp, or our treasurer, Gregory Ziegelmaier.

TRANSFER TO STATE STATUS

The local AFT applauds President Carlson's expressed desire to include the faculty in consultations and negotiations leading to our becoming a state university. To this end, and as only one consideration, the AFT at its meeting of October 5 passed the following resolution unanimously:

Be it resolved that Local 1435, AFT, strongly recommend that all existing fringe benefits for faculty be maintained in their existing form as a minimum policy when the University becomes a state institution.

We believe that this matter and others deserve the consideration of the faculty and that it is incumbent upon us to make our position known.

FACULTY SENATE

By this time the faculty has had an opportunity to read the draft of the proposed constitution for a Faculty Senate. This document was prepared last year by an ad hoc committee and is currently in the hands of the Conference Committee for consideration before submitting it to the entire faculty for a vote. Two open meetings have been held where individual faculty members have expressed their opinions on various provisions contained in the constitution. The AFT believes that several basic questions remain for faculty consideration before a Faculty Senate is instituted.

1. Although the Bylaws of the University designates most administrative officers as members of the faculty, should membership in the Faculty Senate be limited to the "teaching faculty"?

2. If it is thought necessary to have full access to the ideas and information which can be supplied by the administrative staff in meetings of the Faculty, should voting rights nevertheless be limited to members of the "teaching faculty"?

3. Should the safeguard of a secret ballot be provided for in the proposed constitution?

4. Does the provision for a minimum of two representatives from each college plus the dean of that college provide for over-representation for some colleges in the University?

5. Does the ratio for determining representation to the Senate provide for a body which will be too large and unwieldly and thus not provide a forum for orderly discussion and disposition of business?

6. Has the proposed constitution safeguarded the right of the faculty to have full access to information discussed in Senate meetings? For example, are provisions made to give the faculty access to minority as well as majority reports?

These are among only a few questions which have been raised regarding the constitution of the proposed Faculty Senate. Because we believe that the creation of such a senate is an important and desirable development for our University, we hope that the faculty will give thoughtful consideration to the form which it takes, the rules under which it operates and the powers which it proposes to have. We encourage you to make your opinions known to the Conference Committee (through Professors Robert Jackson or Hub Frisinger).

App for dist: JRL