

# Committee helps students

By LINDA HALSEY

The Senate Student Services Committee (SSC) is designed to help eliminate student problems by promoting alternatives of student aid services on campus. "Students are often unhappy and sometimes give up their degree programs because they have not been properly advised or assisted," said Thomas Austin, Chairperson for the SSC.

The committee's purpose involves advising the Senate, the Dean of Students, and those associated with him on policy and administration. In addition recommendations are presented to the Senate concerning general improvement of the quality of helath, residences, counselling and other Undergraduate Student Services.

Austin said, "the difficulty often lies in simply identifying what the problem is". Last year, the SSC committee identified the problem of student withdrawals — where students often withdraw for the wrong reasons and sometimes leave the University without withdrawing and are penalized by consequent F's.

In addition, the importance of raising the standards of student advising was recommended by the SSC. These recommendations emphasized that each student visit their advisor at least twice during the school year, and if a student has expressed a particular interest in a certain department, he should be assigned an advisor within the department. "Meetings with advisors occur all too infrequently," said Austin who added; "Maybe if students had someone to talk to about their problems, a lot of them could be helped."

He said that students often find their year too difficult. The root of this problem is often a result of students over-cautiousness in dropping courses. "In many cases such as dropping an unwanted course, it is essential to keep the student's pressures to a minimum."

Shortening the present three-day period of registration was also

recommended by the council who pointed out a system of pre-registration for all students, with the exception of freshmen who would take part in a one-day registration.

This year a sub-committee on student orientation originated as a result of a recommendation made by the SSC. This committee was primarily designed to analyze this year's orientation, to determine how well it worked. Austin said that orientation went well this year, but there were "a few shortcomings", such as an over-emphasis on pubs and scant coverage given to the library. "Fewer than 100 students made it to Library tours," he said.

Goals for this year include specific methods of handling

student problems. Austin added, "We are hoping to look at students problems and complaints in more concrete terms."

In addition, the special problems of mature students will be looked at and discussed by the committee. Many of these students have been out on the work force and perhaps have families of their own. They often feel out of place. Austin said he does not know how common these problems are, "but we'd like to find out more about them."

The Senate Student Services Committee is very eager to get input and feedback from students. According to Chairperson Austin "the students know what their problems are and it's our job to keep them happy."

## NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

The Senate Student Services Committee will hold an open meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 1978 at 11:30 in Room 103 (Conference Room) of the SUB. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Topics will include:

- (a) Formation of a subcommittee on Orientation.
- (b) Proposals concerning methods for handling students complaints and problems.
- (c) Special problems of the mature student.

We urge all who are interested in contributing to the discussion of any of these topics to attend this meeting. Your input will be of assistance in helping us find solutions to problems in these areas. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to send your written comments to the above Committee in care of the office of the Dean of Students.

# Financial advice for the graduating professional.

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## What a joke!

Stuart Baker, a 41-year-old London man, was astounded when a pair of MP's showed up to arrest him for desertion from the army. Not only had he left the army 21 years early in the belief that he'd been given a hardship discharge, but for the last 14 years Baker had been living directly above an army recruiting station.

"The whole thing is a joke to me," said Baker, but it seems the army isn't laughing. They've got the middle-aged desperado under lock and key, have shaved off his moustache, and plan to court-martial him. (Newsclip)