



## editorial

### Take out the garbage

The 1974 - 75 Student Council is scheduled to meet next Monday for their first meeting since the start of the semester. An educated guess is that the Councillor's attendance at the meeting will be high, and rightfully so. But for some councillors, their presence at this meeting should be met with a majority vote calling for their immediate suspension as elected representatives.

The September 23 meeting will not be the first, but the tenth meeting held since the elections last Spring. The attendance records of certain members has been so poor that action should be taken in the interests of better government.

### Overview provides proper perspective

Often, as I walk about campus on my way to or from classes or assignments, I hear people grumbling and complaining about the lack of services that this student's union offers its members. One of the main complaints is that due to financial difficulties that the SU has brought upon itself, some services have been cut back, or others not improved.

It makes me believe, hearing this so often, and this being the only large campus I have been at, that these things are really true, and that our beloved SU really has been shirking in its duties of serving us to the best of its abilities. Intercollegiate Press is one wire service through which we get copy, and among the stories we received through this service are the following:

**Minneapolis, Minn. - (I.P.) - The Board of Regents at the University of Minnesota recently approved a policy governing the use of alcoholic beverages on campus on a 6 to 3 vote. The policy allows the university president to approve areas and functions at which alcoholic beverages can be served.**

**Regent L.J. Lee said that the University policy would put pressure on other higher educational institutions in the state to change their campus liquor policies. "We're rushing through this as though we're required to give the graduates that come through here the full course," he said. "Liquor is not a necessity of life or of education."**

**David C. Utz, chairman of the student concerns committee, said the policy was as comprehensive as the University could legally manage at the moment. "I am concerned about setting some sort of guidelines for the present situation on campus," he said. Students have been allowed to drink in the privacy of their dormitory rooms since last fall.**

**Oxford, Ohio - (I.P.) - Rejecting a student bid for 24-hour visitation privileges in campus residence units, Miami University's Board of Trustees passed a plan based on five individual options beginning this September. A student request for designating two to four halls as coed residence halls also was rejected.**

**In the new plan, students could indicate their preference among five visitation plans, ranging from no visitation whatever to a schedule totalling 92 hours a week on a basis of 12 to 12 Sunday through Thursday and noon to 4 a.m. Friday and Saturday.**

**Assignments to halls on those separate schedules would be made "as far as the number of residence halls permits." Thus visitation schedule options would become a factor in the annual lottery for housing assignments. In determining this program, according to the proposal sent to the Board of Trustees by the Student Affairs Council, each unit is to provide for:**

**maintenance of an environment which protects the student opportunity to pursue academic studies; consideration of the welfare and privacy of each student-resident; recognition of a student's responsibility for the consequences of his conduct; and, recognition that the visitation program is intended for social interaction, never for cohabitation or unregistered overnight guests.**

**Des Moines, Ia. - (I.P.) - The positive effects of marriage on college students are a myth, according to Dr. Everett E. Hadley, Director of Academic Advising Systems at Drake University. "All of the evidence found to this date discusses the pronounced negative effect of marriage on the persistence of undergraduates in general," Dr. Hadley said.**

By-law 105 of the Students' Union constitution clearly defines the duties of all elected representatives, which includes attendance at Council meetings. It goes further by calling for the suspension of irresponsible councillors who, by definition, "... (fail) to attend in person or by proxy three or more consecutive meetings, or an aggregate of five or more meetings..."

At present, there are at least five who can be categorized as being negligent in this area: Michael Amerongen, College St. Jean rep has missed seven times, Josephine Cummings, Household Economics rep has missed five, Pat Noselski, Nursing rep has missed six, Thom Evans, Pharmacy, has missed six, and Gerry Hunt, UAB rep has missed five meetings.

By-law 105 makes proper provision for all members to appoint a proxy in the event that circumstances do not allow personal attendance, but in the said cases, no proxy has been appointed either.

The critical financial situation of our Students' Union should be the major concern of our elected representatives. Without the proper direction and co-operation of all councillors, the situation can only get worse. If members cannot be bothered to attend regular meetings, Council is obligated in its defined course of action, and should not hesitate to remedy this abuse.

Bernie Fritze

*He made his observations at a workshop here on "Slowing Student Attrition". The overall project is funded through a \$93,199 grant from the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation.*

*"In spite of the frequent complaints heard on college campuses about dormitory living being a 'zoo,'" Dr. Hadley said, "the evidence is clear that freshmen living on campus have better persistence. This seem to be especially true for groups such as blacks, high risk, and disadvantaged students."*

*"Minority and disadvantaged students have a better persistence in those schools which are academically competitive, have a flexible curriculum, and exhibit a strong school identity," He cited a study that showed the higher attrition rate for blacks and other minorities lies in the poor training in simulated experience that most people working with these students have had.*

*Discussing colleges and universities themselves, Dr. Hadley noted that studies showed large institutions in urban settings have a higher attrition rate than small institutions in rural ones. "A large institution in an urban setting in the west or southwest adds further handicaps to the persistence of students."*

*He noted that private colleges appear to have better "track records" than public universities and that coeducational colleges where men outnumber women have attrition rate for women.*

*Discussing policy variables that influence attrition, Dr. Hadley noted that the more selective the admissions policy, the greater the holding power. On such recent innovations as pass-fail and no-credit options, he cited a study at City College of New York that showed they had had no effect on the attrition rate. In schools using a probation period, he continued, students with low grades who persist in school do better in subsequent efforts.*

*Retention odds, Dr. Hadley said, are slightly in favor of an institution that maintains a vigorous student activities program. The less affluent the student body, the higher the attrition rate, he said, but the effect of student employment is not clear, although off-campus jobs tend to be deterrents. "Holding a scholarship increases student persistence," Dr. Hadley adds.*

*Studies show the average dropout rate for colleges and universities throughout the nation has remained at about 40 per cent for the last four decades. "Those colleges and universities that beat this national statistic," he said, "appear to exert greater efforts to achieve interaction between the college and students as individuals."*

*"Student involvement in classroom activities and general familiarity with the instructor are potent factors in reducing attrition," Dr. Hadley said. "One school got good results by introducing a semester-long orientation program."*

*Dr. Hadley cited studies that showed "students will tolerate a certain amount of boredom, isolation, and frustration, but they will quickly depart from a situation which they perceive as an affront to their value system. Persisters also have a moderate like for ritualistic behavior."*

As an old prof of mine used to say, "Son, you've got to get an overview of these things, you've got to be able to view the situation as a whole, get it all into perspective."

I am pretty sure that you and I have had this prof at one time or another.

Maybe he was right.

Greg Neiman

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