

representative students when you have pull?

participation in this field was very worthwhile. His only concern was that such students would find no time for their studies. He said the president of the students' union, its vice-president and secretary, and the editor of *The Gateway* are presently in this position.

"Yes, it is worthwhile," Dr. Kreisel said. "If you want participation, it is the only way to do it. I don't see how you can have one student on more than one committee, though, as is now the case.

"But let's see if students want the extra work. It could be a valuable education in itself."

Dr. Wyman agreed, saying that time is not lost for student representatives—"It is time well-used in an experience which is a preparation for life."

The Board of Governors' meetings closed to the news media. Why?

Dr. Johns stated that if you let in one group, you must let in all the public media to avoid charges of preferential treatment. Impersonal reports

"Tokenism does not exist here unless you take the extremist view that students must have 51 per cent of the membership of boards, or they are tokenistic."

—Dr. Kreisel

from news services or commercial television might distort the real intention of the Board by reporting matters before they were finalized for presentation to other bodies.

"To get a true picture, you need representatives who work with and understand a council's operation," he said.

"I do not wish to meet in secrecy, but I feel the many news media would be a hindrance to the operation of the GFC and the B of G."

Those councils, incidentally, are of the same opinion.

Dr. Johns compared the B of G with the Cabinet of the federal government, about which few read reports, but about which few complain.

However, he said, "The idea of closed meetings will be up for review soon, and I am prepared to change my views if the majority does want news media present. We just want to get on with the work of the University."

He added many people are

confused because they have a false idea of the work of the B of G and GFC, but this is not because of restrictions placed upon what the student representatives could report after meetings. He said that the representatives are not forbidden to say anything about the work of the councils on which they sit, because such matters are left up to their discretion.

Dr. Kreisel had no definite opinion on opening B of G and GFC meetings.

"Perhaps it should be open," he said. "There is nothing that is secret.

"I do not think the B of G would go against a general consensus of student opinion if the students put their case through their representatives to the councils involved."

He observed the argument used by Dr. Johns could also be used to refer to city council, the Legislature, and Parliament.

"I would favor open meetings, though, if only for the reason that people would no longer fear decisions being made in secret," he said, recognizing that some business of the councils would have to be concluded in private.

Dr. Wyman wanted to keep B of G meetings secret.

"A closed B of G is necessary because it is an executive council and its minutes should not be published freely to retain the anonymity of persons proposing motions concerning the reputations and careers of students and faculty of the University," he said.

He added, however, that all books and records should be open to concerned groups. As an example, he mentioned the Married Student Housing rent-raise protest, where the Finance Committee was petitioned by an interested group of students who showed where the budget could be cut back by deleting items the students did not want.

Dr. Wyman does want the GFC open to the news media, but he also wants the decisions of the closed boards (eg. the B of G) to be commonly known and reasons for their decisions given.

But is the present student representation at the U of A on boards and councils too high in power to directly affect the student?

Student representation might be more useful at the lower levels, for example the individual faculty councils. If this is the case, should these representatives be appointed or elected?



DR. WALTER JOHNS
... university president

The only argument Dr. Johns had heard against student representation on these councils was some councils would rather set up a separate student/faculty liaison committee rather than having students directly on the councils.

On Sept. 23 the GFC decided that individual faculty councils would be free to make decisions regarding student representation on their own.

Drs. Kreisel and Wyman agreed student representation should be at all levels and students should be on any body that concerns them.

"Our B of G has tried not to get involved in academic matters, but they do deal with topics such as the fee increase which concerns all students," Dr. Wyman mentioned.

He also observed a lobby is sometimes more effective than student representatives "What function do two people out of 15,000 play? Do they actually represent the student voice?"

Dr. Kreisel was in direct disagreement. He stated that representatives are better than petitions or marches because everyone will change their views a bit during a discussion.

"We have been responsive to demands for representation from faculty and students."

—Dr. Kreisel

"Although marches are dramatic, their purposes are better served through committees," he stated.

On whether student representatives should be elected or appointed, Dr. Johns said

that the problem to face now was that of picking students who were truly representative.

Dr. Kreisel concurred, saying that students will have to work out this particular mechanism on their own. "The faculty should definitely not be involved in this selection. The new forms of student representation will result in a much larger number of students taking part."

Dr. Wyman favored election of student reps, and said that perhaps an individual faculty ballot should be put on every Students' Council ballot.

Are the various causes of student unrest and revolution in the world present at the U of A? How was the recently published President's memorandum on discipline received?

Dr. Johns said the immediate causes of explosions of student activism as found on other campuses are not found here.

"Elsewhere, Viet Nam, the draft, racial segregation in dormitories, and the DOW Chemical napalm protest were key causes.

"We do not have these problems here, but we do have issues that are common to most universities: methods of instruction, course content, exam timing and weighting, and student representation.

"I feel most of these matters can usually be solved by talking to some member of the Administration, remembering that the Administration is comprised of everyone from the President to the parking attendants," he said.

Dr. Johns stressed the University must operate under the rule of law, not under the rule of individuals, no matter how well-intentioned they are.

"Control must be by properly constituted authority. This is the view of society as exemplified by the Legislature."

He stressed the recent publication of his memorandum was unauthorized and premature. "It was a working paper presented to the GFC and pending revision." It was a proposal, not an edict, and he regretted that some parties took it as such.

Dr. Kreisel agreed with Dr. Johns and added that in the past few years, this University has taken steps other universities are just beginning to take.

"We have tried to construct, in the last three years, a structure that is more democratic than it ever was. We have

been responsive to demands for representation from faculty and students. We have involved hundreds of people in the decision-making process," he said.

On the subject of Dr. Johns' memorandum, he said, "Dr. Johns' motives were not as alleged. He really wanted guidance in what he *should* do in an emergency. I think he wanted the counsel of as many people as possible. I believe the students over-reacted to his memorandum, since they did not know his motives."

Dr. Wyman agreed, and said his opinion of Dr. Johns is of a person who would not try to force his ideas on people.

"The main point of the memorandum," he said, "was who should decide in times of crisis matters concerning the

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rights of people here at the U of A.

"In an emergency, it might be necessary for me to take the risks of making mistakes which might make me unfit for this job."

Dr. Wyman saw a more active role for the University in society. He said vocal minority groups, including the SDU, serve a valuable purpose in helping people define their opinions.

"Change should be easy in a rational organization such as our university, and thus the university could perhaps provide leadership in the form of an example to society."