

FACULTY COMMITTEE

PROPOSES CREATION OF ACADEMIC SENATE

By Rurico E. Rivera.

The Faculty Committee for the promotion of reforms to the Act of the University of Puerto Rico and regulations thereof circulated yesterday among ~~members~~ the members of the faculty of the said institution a communication submitting the ideas of the committee on the creation of an Academic Senate, an organization that, if created, would replace the present University Board.

The Faculty Committee's communication, signed by the President and the Secretary, ~~the~~ Messrs. Guaroa Velázquez and Alfredo Nazario, respectively, proposes, in addition to the creation of the Academic Senate, an amendment to the Act of ~~the~~ the University of Puerto Rico, limiting the Chancellor's term of office to six years, instead of the existing provision that prescribes that the Chancellor shall be appointed by the Superior Educational Council for an indefinite term.

"To fulfill the assignment ~~is~~ given to us by the faculty at its last meeting," states ^{the} the said communication, "this Committee has met regularly during the summer session and the present semester, to consider the creation of an academic council or senate and other amendments to the Act ~~of the~~ ~~University of Puerto Rico and the regulations~~ and the regulations of the University of Puerto Rico."

~~The communication states that although~~

It is also stated in the communication that "although we are not yet in a position to submit ~~our~~ our final recommendations to you, we have decided to give you an account of the ideas we have been considering and to ask you to study them and send us as soon as possible your comments and criticisms thereon, together with any suggestion or proposal you may wish to submit to our consideration.

"As on the previous occasion, any member of the faculty filing a proposal in writing shall be given an opportunity to appear before the Committee and state his point^o of view, if he so requests.

~~The~~ "The ideas we have been considering are directed to giving the faculty a more effective participation in formulating university standards,

in academic orientation, and in the government of the institution. Any proposal tending to increase the ~~Faculty~~ faculty's authority over academic matters ~~shall~~ will thus ~~be considered~~ receive ~~in~~ our most careful consideration."

The said Committee attached to the communication a statement ~~of~~ ^{of} its ^{points} ~~of~~ views ^{on} of the Academic Senate. Under the proposal ~~submitted~~ submitted by the Committee, the Academic Senate has the following purposes and functions: the academic government of the University shall be vested in an Academic Senate that shall ~~formulate~~ ^{formulate,} in cooperation with the faculties, or on its own ~~initiative~~ ^{the} initiative, /academic ~~standards~~ standards and the curriculum of the University.

The Senate shall also have ~~specifically~~ the following specific functions: create, to ~~organize~~ organize, extend, or abolish colleges, schools, faculties, departments, institutions, and other academic dependencies of the University; to grant academic ~~degrees~~ and honorary degrees; to approve ~~appointments~~ appointments, leaves of absence, and promotions of the teaching personnel, as ~~well~~ well as the budgets of the faculties; to prescribe the University regulations. (In other words, the Senate would have the academic functions and responsibilities that the University Board has at present).

According to the Committee, the decisions of the Senate would be final, and would only be subject to amendment ~~or~~ or revocation by the Superior Educational Council.

Also according to the Committee, the Senate ~~shall~~ would be composed of the Chancellor of the University, who would be its president, and the deans, the Faculty ~~Representative~~ Representative, and 50 teachers elected by the respective faculties on the basis of proportional representation. The Committee states that the minimum representation for each faculty would be two representatives.

Other proposals of the Committee ~~concerning~~ concerning the internal government of the faculties state that the deans, appointed by the Chancellor after ~~consultation with~~ consulting with and receiving the approval of the respective faculties, shall hold office ~~for~~ for a term of not more than 4 years. The said deans may ~~be appointed~~ be appointed for a second term, if they are nominated by the faculties. The proposals also limit to two years the tenure of office of department heads, although they ~~may~~ may be appointed for a second term ~~if~~ if the ~~members~~ members of the department so decide.

Concerning the appointment of new teachers, promotions, leaves of

absence, and faculty budgets--the procedure would be formal consultation and approval of the respective faculties.