



SPECIAL EDITION

Proposals For Student Government

The Council Form

This form of student government might include fifteen representatives and a Chairman elected by the student body.

The Chairman would select a Vice-Chairman. The function of this group of people, that we will call the Council, for lack of a better name, will "run" the student government. Its function would be to make laws, grant requests, and so forth.

It would operate by a Committee system similar to the Board of Trustees and the Village Government. Perhaps the members could be half elected in April and half in September to provide for continuity.

It would also require that some sort of report--i.e., written, oral, or a combination of types--be given to the campus once a month so that information is disseminated.

The positive point about this proposal is that it has a government of small enough size to function yet large enough to express opinion for the broad range of ideas across the campus. It allows for cohesiveness yet is flexible enough for discussion and serious debate.

The Two Branch System

Alfred's present form of government, that of only a chairman and co-chairman, is clearly ill-functioning and nonrepresentative. It is our belief that the **Two Branch System** will provide increased productivity, constructiveness, representation, and evoke heightened interest from Alfred students.

The **Two Branch System** simply includes an Executive Branch, consisting of a President and Vice-President, and a Senate. The "Speaker" of the Senate is a "symbolic" leader and administrator. A chart of this proposed government looks like this:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

President
Vice-President

Elected by entire
Student Body

Speaker of
the Senate

SENATE

Elected by respective
constituents

The President and Vice-President are elected by the entire Student body as a "team", while Senate members are elected by their respective constituents. The chief function of the President is to make (suggest) laws, approve those laws proposed by the Senate, approve grant requests, and so forth. . . If the President approves the bill, he signs it and usually writes the word "approved" and the date, as the only constitutional requirement being that he sign it.

VETO MESSAGE

By the terms of the Constitutional provision, if the President does not approve the bill, he shall return it, with his objections to the Senate in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. Usually, a bill returned with the President's objections shall be voted on at once and when presented to the Senate the question on the passage is considered as pending.

A similar procedure is had in the Senate where a two-thirds affirmative vote is necessary to pass the bill over the President objections. If then passed by the Senate the measure becomes the law.

The Vice-President acts as an advisor to the President and Senate, and assumes Presidential responsibilities in the event of the President's absence.

The Senate shall be composed of thirty-seven members chosen by its constituents yearly. All dorms (8) will elect two Senate Representatives, the Pine Hill complex and the Greek Apartments will each elect four, each sorority and fraternity will elect one representative, while off-campus residents will have three elected Representatives. Each Representative will have one vote. Alternate, or "junior" Representatives may be elected and hold the responsibilities of "senior" Representatives in the event that "senior" Representatives are absent.

The chief function of the Senate is lawmaking, advising and consenting, and granting fund requests.

The Senate shall assemble once every two weeks. Emergency sessions may also be implemented.

The Senate shall keep a journal of its proceedings and publish them on the first of every month.

The Senate, whenever two-thirds shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to Alfred's Constitution. Amendments will be ratified by consent of the student body and only where a three-fourths majority approves the proposal.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

If the bill is of sufficient importance, and particularly if it is controversial, the committee will usually set a date for public hearings. Each committee (except the Committee on Rules) is required to make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by the committee on any measure or matter at least one week, before the commencement of that hearing, unless the committee determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing at an earlier date.

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Frank Purcell,
Attorney



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THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED BY THE PUBLISHER

No Secrecy—
No Apathy

In interviews with the editors and staff of this newspaper President Rose has committed himself to a campaign to end administrative secrecy at Alfred. Faculty, students, and some administrators have complained that in the past, programs for change have been presented as **fait accompli**, that the persons affected by the changes have not been consulted in the decision making process.

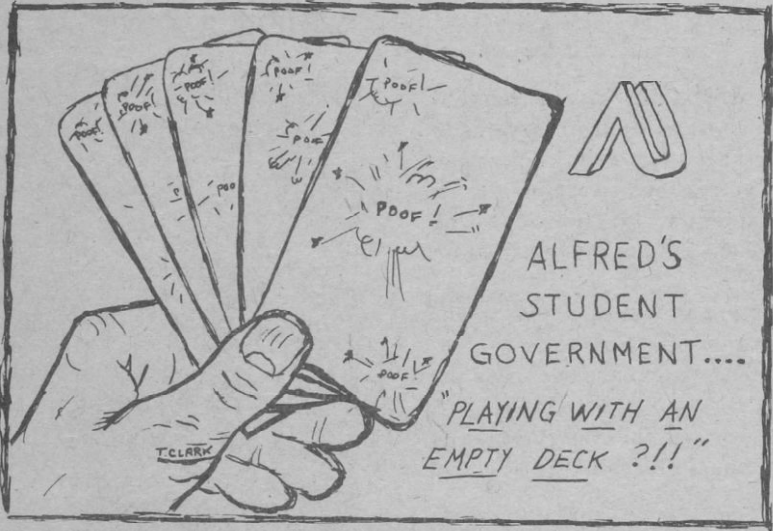
Work will soon begin on a statement of "institutional strategy" which will be operative for the next five years. President Rose has indicated that the draft proposals will be made public, and that University-wide opinion will be actively sought in work on the draft proposals. Inevitably, the statement will reflect the final judgements of Dr. Rose. But he has taken the important step of including the University community in the decision making process. And ending the fear and suspicion which surround decisions made away from public scrutiny.

Indeed, Dr. Rose has registered frustration that he has not been able to make clear as yet to the University community that his policy is to demand openness and candor from members of his administration. And that members of the community should be able to do the same.

In light of Dr. Rose's clearly expressed objectives, now more than ever it behooves the students of this University to make certain that their voice is heard. The University President has indicated a sensitivity to the importance of student perceptions of problems. It would be a shame if no students came forward to express the student view point.

At this critical period in the University's history, with key questions of curricular and financial priorities to be decided, student input can play a significant role in the outcome of these decisions. Some form of student government is necessary to provide an efficient channel for student opinion to reach the administration.

Students must now take the time necessary to carefully evaluate the alternatives, and vote their choices in the referendum election. The value of the Alfred education is at stake. Students need a responsive administration to take their views seriously. But students must also take some responsibility. Dr. Rose has promised to provide the proper atmosphere in the administration. It is now up to the students to show that, given a truly responsive administration, the "apathy" problem will no longer exist.



Fiat Lux

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Opinions expressed in the **Fiat Lux** represent those of the editorial board.

The **Fiat Lux** encourages members of the community to submit letters to the editor. Although letters will not be published anonymously, names will be withheld upon request. The **Fiat Lux** reserves the right to edit letters.

Letters

Two Branch System
Most Viable

To the Editor:

After reading the proposed new forms of Student Government, it appears to me that the "Two Branch System", with some possible modifications, is the most viable option. If there were a representative student government in operation at the University similar to what is described in the "Two Branch System", students would have more input in University matters than they presently do. This would enable the student body to have a communication vehicle with the entire University community.

I would suggest that further consideration be given to the numbers involved in the senate. With 37 representatives the structure may be too cumbersome and somewhat difficult to manage. Otherwise, the structure looks workable and should serve the needs of students.

Don King
Dean for Student Affairs

Present Form
Too Cumbersome

To The Editor:

As a former Dean of Students, I would prefer the Council form with the exception the Vice Chairman should also be elected by the entire student body.

In my judgement the present form is too cumbersome, and the other suggested forms would be too complex. To prove the point, the University Council was cut from approximately 30 members to 12-15 members and it has proven more effective.

Paul Powers

Representative
Form Most
Functional

To the Editor:

I have read the three proposals and the Two Branch System proposal seems to be the most practical. It seems to be a representative form of government which is, perhaps, more traditional and structured yet would function at Alfred. One suggestion, however, for this proposal is to change the phrase "Makes laws" in the third paragraph. The word "suggests laws" would seem more appropriate to the proposal.

The Council proposal seems somewhat vague and in need of a bit more organization. While I do not disagree with

the concept behind the "Refcom" form of government, I feel that the life expectancy of this one would be short and that any type of continuity of government would be lost. The referendum should continue to be used to solicit student opinion whenever possible. At times, however, due to time restraints on student, faculty, and administrative staff schedules, I fear that the Refcom form of government would only function sporadically. Student input is needed continuously throughout the year.

Another concern is that the publicity committee would soon find it difficult to produce all the necessary publicity and referendums needed to insure any type of student input. It would be quite burdensome for the committees involved.

I would also anticipate a decreasing number of students responding to the referendum each time. The value of the process would then be lost.

I commend all of you for your efforts in this project, and hope that you receive a good response from the faculty and student body.

Lynn Jansky
Associate Dean for Student Affairs

More Accountability

To the Editor:

The council form suits Alfred best because:

- 1) amount of government for size of student body.
- 2) the simplicity of the way it would function
- 3) the size of the council, 15 members, would mean more accountability to the student body.

Coach Du Breuil

Thanks for
Great Enrichment

To the Editor:

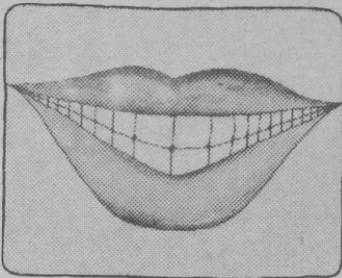
The students who organized the YBH Literary Festival, along with those responsible for recent issues of the **Fiat Lux** (the best in the past few years, regardless of editorial perspective) have greatly enriched our campus life. We would like to offer them our thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Sibley
Stuart L. Campbell
Gary B. Ostrower
John C. Gilmore
Kenneth Greenberg
Thomas Peterson
Josie Gambino
Pat Sibley
David Ohara

Editor's Note

Due to lack of time and sufficient staff, the **Fiat Lux** was unable to issue the proposals to faculty in time for them to comment before press time.



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Two Branch, Con't.

COMMITTEES

Committees in the present Student Assembly government will remain, i.e. Student Appeals, Grievance Committee, Finance Committee, etc. However, to enhance satisfactory efficiency and productivity a faculty advisor's presence would be required at half the scheduled meetings. This would yield constructive and organized direction and thus the desired objective.

One important addition would be the Publicity Committee whose functions would be to inform students of the governmental processes, publish committee reports monthly, and distribute literature informing students of their United States Constitutional rights of relevance to them. For example, they would answer the following: Can a student be "punished" by school officials for off-campus activity; what can diplomas be withheld for; what are the reasons for expulsion or suspension?

"Refcom"

A Proposal for Student Government

The Referendum and Committee system of government (Refcom) is essentially based on one concept: that the main purpose of the student government is to inform, and that the entire student body, once properly informed, should constitute the decision making body of the government.

Refcom allows all students to participate in the government, without a student having to make a full semester or full year commitment to a position of responsibility. Minimum participation would simply require a student to read easily available information on referendum proposals, and then vote. Students can also participate in any one of the following ways: by proposing a topic for a referendum vote; by serving on a temporary "investigative subcommittee"; or by serving on one of the three "standing" committees. Service on a standing committee is the only involvement which would require a full semester or full year commitment on the part of a student.

There is no senate or other strictly representative body in Refcom. Past experience has shown that few students run for office in such a body, few students vote in such an election, and as a result, much of the student body feels disenfranchised from its own government. Refcom replaces the representative body in two ways. First, on issues which affect virtually the entire student body, a University-wide referendum election will take place. In this case, each member of the student body directly expresses an opinion on the topic under consideration. Secondly, issues which affect only a portion of the student body will be investigated and publicized. In this way, the student government can aid portions of the student body, as well as the whole. In some cases a University-wide referendum of support might be used to bring further pressure to bear in the interest of particular groups of students.

Refcom has only three standing committees: the Referendum Committee, the Publicity Committee and the Finance Committee.

The Refendum Committee has two basic areas of responsibilities. The committee is responsible for holding referendum elections; and for appointing temporary investigative subcommittees, and these will investigate referendum topics which have been brought before the Referendum Committee. The temporary investigative subcommittees would recommend specific proposals for a referendum on the specific topic under consideration. All students are eligible to serve on investigative subcommittees, and in most cases a student's mere willingness or desire to serve would result in a place on such a committee. Because a new committee is appointed for each new topic and disbanded upon completion of the investigation, most committees will exist for only a week or two. Thus, a student can take part in a committee, but be "saddled" with responsibility for only a short time. Students could, however, be on more than one committee.

Members of the Referendum Committee would be elected. The committee would select, perhaps on a rotating basis, a committee chairman, whose function would be a parliamentary one, not one of "leadership".

The Finance Committee would be responsible for the dispersal of funds. Its members would be elected, and it would appoint a chairman in the same manner as the Referendum Committee.

The Publicity Committee has two functions. First, in matters which are not suitable for a University-wide referendum (see outline, I., A., 3.) the Publicity Committee will appoint a temporary investigative subcommittee, whose function will be to investigate such matters and report the findings to the Publicity Committee.

The Publicity Committee is also responsible for, of course, publicity. The Referndum Committee, the Finance Committee, and all investigative subcommittees must report all actions and findings to the Publicity Committee. It is the job of the Publicity Committee to keep students informed of the findings and actions of these bodies. Furthermore, it is the job of the Publicity Committee to provide information to the student body which will explain and make clear all proposals which appear on University-wide referenda.

Since "information" and "communication" might be called the

key words of Refcom, the job of the Publicity Committee is vital. Three co-chairmen of the Publicity Committee will be elected. They will select a chairman in the manner of the other standing committees. The co-chairmen will appoint such other members as are necessary to carry out their appointed duties.

The advantages, then, of Refcom are these:

- Students need not rely on one or two "leaders". Indeed, under Refcom, since any student can propose a University-wide referendum, and since every student can vote, all students are leaders.
- Students can become involved on any one or combination of levels. Students who do not "run" for office, or who do not have time for a long term committment, are not shut out of the government.
- There is no necessity for frequent meetings at which large numbers of students are needed. Students can propose referendum topics in writing, and therefore, do not need to attend meetings.
- A natural system of checks and balances exists, since all activities and findings of the government will be publicized by a committee which is designed for that very purpose.
- Instead of a limited number of persons, the resources of the student government encompass the entire student body. The investigative subcommittees can allow many small groups of interested students to probe any number of topics of interest to students. The flow of information on campus, which has been virtually non-existant in the past, would increase markedly.
- A broad variety of issues can be investigated and publicized. Student government involvement would not be limited to only the "big" issues.

The Refcom system does not depend on one or a few students for success. Rather, it assumes that when students are properly informed, and when access to the student government process is easily and widely available, the students **will** take action in their own self interest.

NOTE: If Refcom is adopted, some details would be further decided upon at that time. For example, since a 2/ 3 vote of the Referendum Committee can prevent a proposed topic from being put on a referendum, it might be desirable that in such a case a student could force a referendum vote by collecting some number of names (perhaps 200) on a petition. Also, there might be provision for "binding" referenda which would pertain to decisions of the Finance Committee. This would act as an additional control over the expenditure of monies.

Brief Outline of Refcom Government

I. Referendum Committee

A. Duties

1. to hold referendum elections
2. to appoint such temporary investigative subcommittees as are necessary to properly investigate proposed referendum topics
 - a. investigative subcommittees should be chosen from the student body
 - b. once an investigative committee has completed its report, and referendum proposals have been finalized, the committee is disbanded
3. to refer such matters to the Publicity Committee, which, by a 2/ 3 vote of the Referendum Committee, are deemed not proper for a University-wide referendum but which ought to be investigated and publicized
4. to make all of its actions known to the Publicity Committee

B. Selection

1. members of the Referendum Committee shall be elected from the student body
2. following election, the members shall select by vote a chairman from
 - a. the chairman shall be selected from the membership of the committee
 - b. the function of the chairman shall be for parliamentary purposes only

II. Publicity Committee

A. Duties

1. to inform the University community of the actions of the Referendum Committee and its investigative subcommittees; and of the Finance Committee
2. to appoint special investigative and "watch dog" subcommittees to properly investigate such matters as are of concern to students, but which are deemed not proper for a University-wide referendum, by vote of the Referendum Committee
3. to publicize the findings of the special investigative committees

B. Selection

1. three chairmen will be elected
2. they shall appoint a chairman in the same manner as the Referendum Committee

III. Finance Committee

A. Duties

1. to regulate the dispersal of funds
2. to make all of its actions known to the Publicity Committee

B. Selection

1. members of the Finance Committee shall be elected from the student body
2. the members shall appoint a chairman in the same manner as the Referendum Committee

FRANKLY SPEAKING...by phil frank




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