

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE
AND FACULTY COUNCIL
OF EMORY UNIVERSITY
1997-1998**

I. THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The theme for the 1997-1998 University Senate was "A Place of Learning." Against the backdrop of this theme, the work of the Senate entailed a "learning" effort to develop a place in the Senate which could better promote and serve the purpose of Emory University as an outstanding place of learning. This learning effort involved each of us in the Senate learning about ourselves and one another in order to become a more effective constituent, deliberative body for the betterment of the University.

Attached to this report are the minutes of all the meetings, the formal resolutions passed and submitted to the President of the University, and the year-end reports of the standing committees of the Senate. In following with the precedent of last year's report, I assume that the reader is familiar with those items, and I direct remarks to those actions considered to be most important by the Senate's executive committee and, more specifically, by the Senate president.

The most pressing and time-consuming issue for the Senate this year involved the development of the Campus Master Plan and efforts to ensure that all elements of the university had a meaningful voice in the formulation of the plan. Despite much early frustration on the parts of several segments of the university community concerning the lack of opportunities for meaningful expression of their thoughts on the shaping of the Campus Master Plan, ultimately, through the efforts of the Senate leadership, the administration, and the planners themselves, a strong interactive relationship developed and virtually all elements of the community felt that they had an opportunity to be heard. The key element in this consultative process for the Senate was found in the regular involvement of its standing committees with the work of the Campus Master Planners. The planners met regularly with the Committee on the Environment, the Campus Development Committee, and the Traffic and Parking Committee. In addition, there were meetings with other standing committees and regular briefings to the full Senate by Earle Whittington. The consultative process with the Senate and its standing committees seemed difficult for the planners at first, and it probably remains a somewhat more cumbersome process than that to which they are accustomed. However, I believe that this process of inclusion ultimately produced a stronger and better plan with much broader and deeper support throughout our community than would have been produced under a less inclusive process.

At our October meeting the Senate considered and passed a resolution regarding the University Equal Opportunity Policy. The resolution was produced in response to the disagreement between the University and the United Methodist Church concerning the

use of campus chapels. The Senate's resolution, drafted by Professor Anne Rector, was carefully crafted to reassert a strong commitment to Emory's Equal Opportunity Policy using language of inclusion and unification rather than language focusing on divisions. I believe the resolution was helpful in the positive resolution of the dispute in November.

At the November meeting the Senate passed two resolutions brought forward from the Fringe Benefits Committee: the first of these resolutions recommended the removal of social security numbers from EmoryCare cards in order to deter identity theft, and the second recommended a modification in the existing medical coverage to improve the coverage for hearing devices. There was also a lengthy discussion of the various problems facing students and others with disabilities in the University community. This discussion was quite frank and intense at times but led to actions being taken to address some of these problems during the spring semester.

Finally, at the March meeting the Senate approved all four of the nominees of the Honorary Degrees Committee for the 1999 commencement. These nominations were forwarded to the President of the University and the Board of Trustees for action.

During the 1997-1998 sessions the Senate continued its practice of recent years of inviting various campus leaders to meet with the Senate and discuss matters of concern to the university community. President Chace and Interim Provost Chopp regularly attended the Senate meetings and frequently addressed the body and received responses. In addition, Earle Whittington of the Campus Planning Office made a lengthy presentation of the Campus Master Plan at the October meeting and came back to the November meeting for rather extensive responses from several of the Senate's standing committees. At the January meeting of the Senate, Steven Sanderson, Dean of Emory College and Vice-president for Arts and Sciences, visited with the Senate to discuss the present and future of Emory College. Frances Lucas-Tauchar, Vice-president and Dean for Campus Life, and Darnita Killian, Dean of Students, visited with the Senate to share visions and concerns revolving around campus life at Emory. All of these interactions were quite beneficial, and such opportunities to provide for these sorts of interactions should be continued in the future.

Finally, the Senate elected leadership for next year's Executive Committee. W. Virgil Brown will be president in 1998-1999. Other members of the Executive Committee will be: Bill Cody (immediate past-president); John Boli (president-elect), David Pacini (secretary), Ronald Foust (staff representative as president of the Employee Council), and two elected representatives of students to be chosen at the September Senate meeting.

II. FACULTY COUNCIL

The Faculty Council was extremely busy during 1997-1998 doing important work in several areas. This work included serving as a consultative body to Interim Provost Chopp concerning the implementation of "Teaching At Emory," to the University chaplains preparing recommendations for the Board of Trustees, and to Chancellor Billy Frye as he completed preparation of "A Vision For Emory," previously referred to as a

strategic plan. The Council also worked as a deliberative body, completing work on the Faculty Hearing Committee, passing a major resolution on disabilities and learning, and continuing its work on a mediation procedure. The deliberative function was also exercised as ad hoc committees continued to grapple with the "faculty life cycle," "disabilities and learning," and articulating a policy on "consensual amorous relationships" between faculty and students and perhaps others. The standing committees of the Faculty Council continued their important work, as well. Finally, the Faculty Council co-sponsored three Faculty Town Hall Meetings and the Distinguished Faculty Lecture.

One major item of business for the Council was consulting with Interim Provost Chopp on the implementation of "Teaching at Emory," the report of the University Teaching Commission. These discussions constituted a significant portion of all Faculty Council meetings from October through March. Also, at its October meeting, the Faculty Council met with University Chaplain Susan Henry-Crowe and Oxford College Chaplain Sammy Clark to discuss the recommendations that they were preparing for the Board of Trustees on the use of University religious facilities. After the Board of Trustees approved these recommendations in November, the Faculty Council passed a resolution of appreciation commending the two chaplains for their "judicious leadership." The Faculty Council also consulted extensively with Chancellor Billy Frye as he completed his work on "A Vision For Emory." These consultations took place in January and February and involved one extended meeting and two called meetings.

The Council's work as a deliberative body was highlighted by the adoption of a resolution creating the Faculty Hearing Committee and changing the language of the Gray Book to authorize such a committee. After more than two years of work on this matter under the leadership of the Faculty Relationship Committee and its chair Rich Freer, a resolution on which both the Faculty Council and the Deans of the Schools and Colleges could agree was passed. The Board of Trustees finally approved the revision of the Gray Book in April, and the Faculty Hearing Committee has become a reality, replacing the Faculty Relationship Committee. The "Resolution on Disabilities and Learning" was passed in March and marked a major effort by the faculty to take a leading role in the area of dealing with disabilities in the educational setting. The major thrust of the resolution is to assure that learning plans developed for those with disabilities are focused upon the educational experience and not merely on statutory compliance. At the April meeting, the Council passed a draft resolution creating a mediation procedure for disputes between a faculty member and his or her administrative supervisor. This draft resolution has been forwarded to the deans for their review, comments, and suggestions.

In a year in which the Faculty Council was so heavily involved in the pressing matters outlined above, the importance of the standing committees in effectively performing their designated functions is underscored. The Faculty Council always relies heavily on the standing committees, but this year that was especially true. The Faculty Research Committee, chaired by Professor Dean Danner, and the Faculty Teaching Fund Committee, chaired by Professor V. S. Sunderam, performed their extensive work with their usual excellence. The diligence and productivity of the Faculty Relationship

Committee has been documented above in the discussions of the resolutions on faculty hearings and faculty mediation. Under the leadership of Professor Luke Johnson the relatively new Carter Center Liaison Committee continued its important work in fostering the liaison program. The Distinguished Faculty Lecture Committee, chaired by Virgil Brown, successfully completed its second year of work as the committee which screens and recommends candidates to deliver the annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture. Finally, under a resolution passed by the Council at its April meeting, the ad hoc Subcommittee on Disabilities and Learning, chaired by Professor David Pacini, will continue as an important advisory body to the Provost. Each of these committees and their chairs provided excellent and indispensable service to the Faculty Council this year.

The topic of the Faculty Town Hall Meeting in the fall was the Report of the Teaching Commission: "Teaching At Emory." The first Faculty Town Hall Meeting in the spring was on "The Balance Between Teaching and Research," and the second one was on the "Campus Master Plan." The turnouts at all three were quite good, and considerable discussion was generated, both in the meetings and outside them. The Distinguished Faculty Lecture was delivered by history Professor Dan Carter in late March and was very well attended. The Faculty Town Hall Meetings and the Distinguished Faculty Lecture are still growing in attendance and are important events in building community among the various faculties of Emory University.

III. CONCLUSION

I fully agree with Luke Johnson's conclusion in last year's annual report that "Emory University needs a strong University Senate and Faculty Council." As these two bodies continue to play an increasingly important role in the life of this University, it appears to me that they are gaining strength as both consultative and deliberative bodies. I, too, conclude the support shown them by the President, Chancellor, and Provost of the University is a major source of their present health and growing strength.

Respectfully Submitted,

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President of the University Senate
Chair of the Faculty Council