

**Address by Dr. Robert Levin, Chair of the Service Departments Committee, to the Faculty Senate October 3, 2002.**

The Committee had a busy year. It held seven meetings chaired by myself. The following department directors and their staffs made detailed presentations regarding the philosophy, administrative organization, functions, recent personnel reductions, and problems regarding their administrative units: Ken Toong, Director of Food Services, Don Robinson, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, Earl Smith, Director of the Physical Plant, Sandra Anderson, Director of the Campus Services, and Barbara O'Connor, campus Chief of Police. She is additionally scheduled for a more detailed presentation this semester. As a result, the Committee had an opportunity to probe rather deeply into the functionality and administrative structure of all of these units. We came to the conclusion that one, they were all headed by exceptionally able administrators, secondly, these administrators, directors and their staffs were notably enthusiastic with respect to their responsibilities, and their ability to contribute quite significantly to the maintenance structure of the University in an administrative sense.

The Committee additionally entertained a detailed discussion with Physical Plant administrative personnel regarding the possibility of having all work order estimates of \$10,000 and below presented in detail in respect to one, projected man hours and cost per man-hour, and secondly, the cost of supplies and equipment involved. In addition, there was a rather extensive and detailed discussion undertaken by the Committee regarding the present cost of purchasing and installing a window air conditioner. Over the years, this has become a rather contentious situation on the campus, resulting at times, with some significant frequency, a great deal of rather extreme polarization on this campus between faculty and the University administration. Basically, what drives the problem here is an administrative policy that I think we are all very much aware of.

In addition, the Committee has undertaken a number of rather specific tasks. One has to do with the fact that one entire administrative unit on the campus, consisting of about 30 staff, who, during the summer months, have to vacate their offices at about noon. They get into work at about 6 o'clock in the morning and go home at about noon, because they're housed in a closed building. There are windows, but they open horizontally not vertically, so it requires an extensive amount of carpentry to install any window air conditioning units. An additional investigation indicated that the building they're housed in has inadequate electrical lines and circuitry to house any significant number of air conditioners. The result is that the staff, during the summer, is not available. They have to vacate. Now, there were several approaches to dealing with a problem of this intensity. One is to have every staff member in the unit maintain, in their office, a mouse or a rodent. In that case, Animal Care would land on the unit and absolutely demand that the temperature in the entire building be maintained uniformly at 68 degrees Fahrenheit. The Federal Government considers it inhumane to maintain animals between 90-100 degrees Fahrenheit. However, when it comes to humans, there are no such restrictions. Presumably humans are not caged. They can walk out. But at the same time, if they walk out, how are they going to get their job done? So, there's a very practical problem here. We're going to see if some relief can be brought about in the near future by either the installation of central air conditioning or by rewiring Hills South so that it can accommodate a significant number of air conditioners, along with the required carpentry. Short of that, there's always a possibility that the entire problem can be addressed. It's never really been addressed

with respect to a final solution, and perhaps the problem can be put on to the deferred maintenance list so that eventually it can reach a final solution.

In addition, I teach a Gen. Ed. course with about 150 students. Walking in to Thompson 106 at 12:20 in the afternoon, it struck me that I was having to shuffle through and wade ankle-deep in paper cups, containers, debris of all sorts, and it was only noon. I would expect that by 3 or 4 o'clock, individuals attempting to get to the lectern are going to have that much more debris to wade through. Now, for some reason, I think most of us have some awareness of the problem, but on the other end, I think over the years we've become conditioned to simply living with the problem. I've had faculty members tell me that when they invite an outside guest onto the campus, to give a seminar or lecture, they find it horrendously embarrassing. So embarrassing that they have to send a team of students in fifteen minutes before the individual arrives to clean up all the debris. So, basically, we have a cultural problem. And you can't point a finger to the Physical Plant and say, "Well, they're not doing their job efficiently." You can't expect the custodians to come in after every class and pick up after everybody. So what I'm really talking about here is at least attempting to bring about some significant level of behavior modification. Changing the culture on the campus by way of bringing about creating perhaps what we can term the "Campus Cleanup Campaign." This is a plan on paper, it hasn't been completely discussed and debated. There are a number of ideas subject to infinite modification as we like. This is just an initial graph. Involve the Collegian with editorials, photographs. Students--editorials and comments. In addition, the first week of each semester, have students themselves present a one or two-minute verbal presentation requesting, pleading with everybody in the class not to throw debris on the floors. The Chancellor: announcement of a campus cleanup day one day toward the end of each semester. One minute extended by each student on that day cleaning up wherever they wish on the campus. External campus grounds, lecture halls. Chancellor and staff may wish to participate. Physical Plant--mounting brightly colored signs, large waste containers inside and outside lecture halls clearly labeled. The faculty: I have an overhead which I make use of the first day of class with all of my large classes. It simply says, please do not litter the floors with debris. Thereafter use the overhead as needed if the debris continues to accumulate throughout the semester. Faculty Senate: perhaps an agenda item for more extensive discussion. Perhaps a Chancellor's statement of his interest here. Discussion from the floor, motion, at some time in the future in support of such an initiative. So this is an early concept, in its infancy, and hopefully there will be enough support and enough enthusiasm to bring it about so that all of us don't have to wade through all that debris.