

# AC mulls selection procedure

Up for scrutiny but no action at the Academic Council meeting Tuesday was a proposed "Procedure for Selecting the President of the University," submitted by the 5-person ad hoc committee named Nov. 1.

Action on the document is expected at the Dec. 6 council meeting. Once approved by council, the procedure will be considered by the Board of Trustees, which meets next Dec. 8-9.

The procedure provides for a 17-person search and selection advisory committee which is ultimately to submit a recommended list of at least five names, non-ranked, to the trustees for consideration. The committee is to include two trustees, the chairperson of the Steering Committee, seven faculty members, one academic administrator (at or above level of dean), four students, one non-faculty full-time employee and a representative from the alumni.

John F. A. Taylor, professor of philosophy and chairman of the ad hoc committee, reviewed the document, citing sections of concern both to the ad hoc committee and to the two trustees who worked with the committee to develop the procedure.

Zolton Ferency, associate professor of criminal justice, criticized the entire proposal as "an effort to accommodate the board's concerns in advance." He urged that the council give advice not "impeded or molded in any shape or form by the board's desires."

President Clifton R. Wharton, Jr. responded that he believed that the two trustees had acted in good will and did not attempt to manipulate the outcome of the procedure any more than the members of the ad hoc committee.

Ralph Taggart, associate professor of botany and plant pathology, argued that "advance accommodation is one way to make institutions work."

Most of the council members who spoke Tuesday commended the ad hoc committee on its work, but most were also critical of aspects of the document.

Chiefly, concern was voiced about the provision that the trustees will select the chairperson of the advisory committee from among the committee's members. Council members who spoke maintained that the chairperson should be selected by the committee from among the faculty members.

Some opposition was also expressed to inclusion of trustees on the advisory committee. The procedure used for the selection of Wharton in 1969 did not

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specifically include trustees on the advisory committee.

The provisions regarding the recommended list and the selection of the president by the trustees from that list also generated some concern. Some council members said that a minimum of five names made the list too large and others criticized the non-ranking of the names on the list.

Question was also raised about the force of the wording in the document that it is "the frank spirit of this instrument, that the Board (of Trustees) shall appoint a person from the Recommended List." Wharton and Taylor responded that this wording is not binding.

Taylor stressed that legally the scholarly community has no power in the matter except that delegated by the trustees and that the board will resist invasion of its own rights. Wharton added that it is "highly unlikely" that the board will

appoint someone not on the list, but that it retains "in extremis" the ultimate authority to make the selection.

Other points in the document addressed were the sections stating that "a suitable provision must be made for including women and minorities" in the search and selection process. Questions were raised regarding the implementation of these sections and the definition of "minorities."

The meeting ended with eight council members waiting to comment on the document. Discussion will resume when the council meets again at 3:15 p.m. Dec. 6 in the Con Con Room of the International Center.

Gwendolyn Norrell, chairwoman of the Steering Committee and member of the ad hoc committee, urged council members to submit amendments in writing to members of the ad hoc committee prior to the next council meeting in order to facilitate action on the document.