

Christie Rules

In 1972 a committee chaired by Prof. George Christie of the School of Law fine-tuned the Academic Council in a series of reforms aimed at strengthening the role of the Academic Council in the decision making process and the commitment of the University to ensuring the Council's success. The summary of the recommendations from the report to study the nature and role of the Academic Council is given below. The recommendations (submitted, April 14, 1972; Adopted, as revised, by the Academic Council on September 28, 1972) have never been made a formal part of the Academic Council bylaws, but continue to be followed and supported by the Administration.

REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE NATURE AND ROLE OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Summary of Recommendations

1. The decision-making powers still retained by the University Faculty, insofar as these powers pertain to University governance, should be delegated to the Academic Council.
2. The Academic Council should maintain effective liaison with all other Faculty organizations exercising authority across departmental boundaries or acting for the entire Faculty of a school or college.
3. All persons designed as representatives of the University Faculty on Trustee Committees or other University Committees should be nominated by and be accountable to the Academic Council.
4. Whenever a new University Committee is created on which the University Faculty is to be represented, the Executive Committee of the Academic Council should be consulted with regard to the structure and function of any such Committee.
5. Except in emergencies, all major decisions and plans of the administration that significantly affect academic affairs should be submitted to the Academic Council for an expression of views at some time prior to implementation or submission to the Board of Trustees. The views expressed by the Academic Council should be transmitted along with the Administration's proposals when these plans and decisions are considered by the Board of Trustees.
6. The Academic Council, at its last meeting of the academic year, or the Executive Committee of the Council, should the Council delegate this power to the Executive Committee, should appoint a committee consisting of at least three Council members who will be available to serve in a consultative role to the Administration when the University is not in regular session. It is anticipated that, normally, members of the Executive Committee would serve in this capacity if available.
7. The Executive Committee's role as a standing advisory group to the senior administrative officers of the University should be formally recognized and the senior officers of the University

should accept the obligation to meet with the Executive Committee of the Council during the regular academic sessions of the University.

8. The Chair of the Academic Council should be elected for a term of two years and should be given a reduced teaching load during the term(s) of office; the chair should be elected at least six months in advance of assuming office in order to permit the appropriate arrangements to be worked out and should be an ex officio member of the Academic Council during the term of office.

9. The Academic Council should be established as a continuing body with its members serving two-year terms. The terms of members should be staggered so that one-half of the members are elected annually.

10. Appropriate administrative support shall be available for the Academic Council. In addition, suitable office space should be assigned to the Academic Council.