

PROFESSORS' PLATFORM

"Ideal Teacher"

To The Editor:

In case your readers missed the recent article in the *Lumberjack* on this subject, they may be interested in the results of an "Ideal Teacher" poll taken last December by Student Services Research Coordinator Aman Bloom. The poll form was sent to 1,000 students, from which we received 204 "acceptable responses." Of these, 70 percent rated overall instruction quality at HSU from "good to excellent" and another 28 percent rated it "adequate or fair."

Teaching qualities which students thought most important for the "Ideal Teacher" were (*in order of importance*):

1. Able lecturer, teacher, communicator
2. Knowledgeable in subject area
3. Available, concerned, understanding
4. Enthusiasm with subject matter
5. Creative/keeps class interesting or appealing
6. Well organized/prepared
7. Highly motivated to instruct
8. Sense of humor/humility
9. Flexible/open/objective
10. Fair evaluator of performance

I would hesitate to make any firm conclusions as a result of this poll, although the sample was adequate (approximately 2½ percent of the student population). It was also fairly representative of all students with respect to demographic variables such as major, age, and residence. The sample was over-weighted in favor of females. However, it would seem that professors at HSU do a good job of teaching. Furthermore, teachers who are first-rate lecturers, know their material, and who are interested in student learning obviously will be popular professors.

Edward "Buzz" Webb
Dean for Student Services

President "Unrealistic"

To The Editor:

I cannot help feeling that President McCrone raises unrealistic hopes when he states, in your recent interview, that more "discretionary authority in all aspects of University relations" is a viable goal. Surely the President realizes better than anyone else on campus that quite the opposite is the case—that more and more demands emanate from Long Beach and Sacramento in every avenue of University governance. No doubt this is a source of concern to the President, but he should refrain from making statements that express only a hope, rather than a realistic possibility. Greater centralization and loss of campus autonomy seems to be the wave of the future in the CSUC system.

Name Withheld by request

Trade Unionism: "Freedom"?

To The Editor:

In the Fall 1980 *Forum* President McCrone expressed his view that trade unionism "would demean the professional stature of the professoriat..." Although the word "demean" strikes me as a bit strong, I would concur with the general sentiment expressed by the President.

That there are certain advantages to be derived from faculty association membership, I would not deny. In a time of inflation and declining enrollment, with faculty purchasing power being eroded and layoff plans awaiting implementation, if necessary, no one can blame a member of "the professoriat" for feeling nervous and looking for more security.

However, for myself, the collective bargaining approach brings dangers as well as benefits: the danger of becoming tied in to demands with which the individual faculty member may or may not concur; the danger of losing some of the implicit benefits of our present situation—specifically, unaccounted for time during the week, flexible of-

office hours and class scheduling; most importantly, there is the ever-present danger of losing a measure of one's academic freedom if, as part of a collective-bargaining agreement, the faculty organization inadvertently leaves a loophole through which those persons who are hostile to the academy can begin to demand greater accountability from faculty in or outside the classroom.

Perhaps these are exaggerated fears, but I cannot help worrying that trade unionism, while seeking to improve our quantitative situation as professionals, may lead to an erosion of the qualitative—and most distinctive—aspect of our profession: freedom.

Gordon T. Anderson

“Memorial Fund”

To the Editor:

In honor of the memory of Professor Wilmer L. Bohlmann, who passed away on April 9, 1981, the Department of Political Science is establishing a fund to be administered by the Financial Aids office at Humboldt State University. The fund will be

used to provide HSU students with short-term loans and/or scholarships.

If you would care to make a donation, please indicate the *Wilmer Bohlmann Fund* either on the check or attach a note to the check. All checks should be made out to Humboldt State University and sent to the Financial Aids office.* All donations, regardless of size, will be greatly appreciated and are tax-deductible.

Please let us know of any other person (faculty, staff, student) who might be interested in making a contribution. If you have any questions, please contact the Political Science Department office**.

Thank you very much.

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