

The committee was called into being to consider constructive and appropriate programs and plans for the University of Oregon during the 1970 general elections. Two assumptions have underlain the committee's deliberations. The University should be prepared to respond to possible student-faculty interest in the political activities of the fall term. And a "political time-out" or recess is not feasible.

During discussions, it has seemed that the University's response to the situation should be of a dual nature: To make students aware of political activities in which they might participate; and, by way of general education and broad intellectual preparation, to provide for discussion of the meaning of political activity for students and for the University.

The overall rubric might be "The University and the Political Process." Specific activities would begin during registration week. There should be an announcement at that time of the existence of the academic program in politics. The Political Science Department should make material available on its requirements for participation in this program. There also should be a session in which there was discussion of the practical aspects of participation in campaigns. Previous participants might discuss their experiences. Members of the Political Science Department would answer questions about their requirements.

The committee has also initiated an inventory of academic offerings in schools and departments other than Political Science. It hopes to determine whether there are other existing or possible courses and programs in which students can combine involvement in practical politics with genuine academic work. If there are such courses or programs, information on them should be made available.

A "Political Affairs Information and Action Center" should be opened in the Student Union. This center will operate as an impartial library of information about civic and political action groups locally and in the state. For example, political candidates might leave their literature at the center and also inform interested students on how to become involved in campaigns. Non-political groups could do the same.

Early during the fall term, there should be a major University convocation at McArthur Court. The President of ASUO would speak briefly, and there would be announcements about the Center mentioned above and the panels discussed below. The President of the University would deliver the main address. His remarks on the meaning and state of the university should set the tone of student thinking.

Subsequently there should be three series of panel discussions to explore and develop the general ideas discussed by the President and other related ideas of concern and interest. It has been suggested that the specific themes for the three sessions might be: (1) The University and Involvement; (2) Social Change and the University; and (3) Higher Education: Can and Should It Adapt? Two of the sessions should occur before the elections and one after the elections. Each session would consist of approximately three panels, representing faculty members with diverse viewpoints. There should also be student participation or separate student panels. In the session on Involvement, for instance, the panelists would presumably assess the advantages and disadvantages of involvement in political activities, including university governance and outside affairs. Those students who wished to participate in some activity might be referred to the Political Affairs Information and Action Center for specific information. It has been suggested that the panelists might be drawn from Ersted Award winners or include other able faculty members who could induce student interest.