

Students Want More Say In Tenure Decisions

This year I had the dubious honour of being the only student on the Tenure Committee. As the system is now the composition of this committee includes the 3 academic deans, five professors and one student. Profs up for tenure are judged on their research, teaching ability & community involvement (which also includes campus involvement).

Much emphasis was put on the student evaluation forms. Personally I didn't take a lot of pass of them. From experience those forms were passed out just before the end of the term when the students were not in a frame of mind to fill them out objectively (even if the forms were any good). Secondly the forms were passed in to the Prof and I had two objections there. (1) If the class was small a student might feel that the Prof would recognize the handwriting and any derogatory comments would not be appreciated at this part of the term when all tempers are short. (2) The Prof has the chance of weeding out the papers. By this I mean, He(she) could take out the forms which were not complimentary, and no one would know the difference.

This year the Aims & Objectives committee have had a number of meetings for

students. At all of them one of the main issues that came up was tenure. Most people felt that it should be abolished & a system of contracts be set up instead. A compromise was suggested since it would be very difficult to abolish tenure. It was agreed that the composition of the tenure committee is very important and if there was more student representation the interest of the student would be served better. The figure of four students and five faculty was suggested as more representative.

I think that the faculty recognizes the problems involved with the evaluation forms and turns to the lone student rep. on the committee for more precise information about what the students think of a particular Prof. In talking with students who served on the tenure committee in the past they had the same feelings. They felt that they were representing 1400 people and had to answer to them. It is impossible for one person to do this on such an important question as tenure. As an arts student there is no way that I could understand a chemistry thesis. A science student would at least recognize the terminology.

Another point I would like



to make is the attitude towards tenure I feel that tenure is a privilege of a faculty member, not a right. A person is granted a position from which he can be removed by "just cause". I wouldn't want to try & define "just cause". This is the place where academic freedom comes up Profs have a valid point when they insist that they be allowed to carry on their research and conduct their classes in whatever manner they want without risking their jobs. But what also has to be considered is the welfare of the student who, after all is what the whole university system is about.

faculty member should be obliged to take a year off to catch up on the new developments in his field. This way they would be able to put forward in their classes the latest information. Along with this it was suggested that it is unfair for a person who has been on leave for more than one year to apply for tenure the year he returns. He should be given an extra year.

A Prof who is granted tenure can just sit back, use the same notes year after year and not bother with research. The chances of getting him removed are not very likely.

Finally it was felt by a lot of students that there should be some kind of provisional system set up. If a Prof. seems to be lacking in one or two areas the tenure committee should have the authority to grant him tenure with provision that he improve. They could then take a second look at his performance the next year and make a judgement. As it is now if a Prof is not granted tenure he is dismissed unless his appeal is successful. DONNA MCGAUGH

Another recommendation made by a number of students was that periodically every

Student Representation Increases at U of T

Last Oct. the governing council at U of T voted for increased student representation on body although it rejected a bid for parity with faculty. At present 8 students and 12 faculty sit on the body. It was also decided that not only should the student - faculty proportion be improved but also that both should increase at the expense of the rest of Governing Council.

tribution to make. Or as the provost of Trinity College said "since the implementation of policies requires students' co-operation then it is only fair that students should have equal representation with faculty on the bodies that make the policies".

In the debate, Betty Kennedy said "Although the paternal faculty-student relationship may have been adequate in the past, it is adequate no longer. By the very place in time students have a unique contri-

Despite the improvement, U of T students have applied to the Ontario Government for full parity. According to SAC "The issue is not dead". In 1971, the provincial government had promised the students a thorough review of the question. It looks promising.

