



The Skirl



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FMC Breaks From Tradition-New Electoral System Proposed

For a long while the students have sensed a need for a new system for electing leaders. The feeling of the students was not due to any particular point; instead it seemed to be a combination of many points. There was definitely a feeling of inadequacy of the old system. The main objection was the long-drawn out procedure. Before the end, students ceased giving thought as to the importance of the office and the girl best for it. Our system was more like a popularity contest. Even though the boy or girl might be quite capable, he or she was not necessarily the "best" for the job. It was the feeling that talent remained undiscovered in the not so popular people. Many times one might painfully undergo the run of every office, perhaps ending with a minor office, perhaps being a good follower. All in all, our system lacked democracy and was generally outdated. We needed a more mature, up-to-date system for electing our officers.

Realizing the feelings of the majority of students, the council decided to make a study. Permission was secured to include our present system in the 1958-59 Handbook with the understanding that possibly a new system would be used for the next elections.

Last May a committee was appointed by the Student Council composed of Betty Barnes, Della Evans, Sandra Abbott, Jeanne McRae, Elizabeth Clark, Chm., Jeanne Flournoy, Ex-officio, and Miss Hawse, Advisor.

The committee began its work immediately by putting up suggestion boxes, sending out questionnaires, writing for information from other colleges, studying the systems of other colleges and through general conversation with students.

Through the study the committee came to realize the need for a complete "overhaul job." The need for a system which would cause enthusiasm and thinking on the part of each student was felt.

With the combination and compilation of the many ideas gained from investigation the committee devised a whole new system. The final copy was carried to the executive committee and to the students.

The proposed system is quite different from our present system. It was the desire of the committee to propose a good usable system which covers our needs as far as possible.

COMMITTEES

Although there has been no formal questioning about the new committees set up in the electoral system, the group which worked on the revision felt it wise to explain the reason for setting up these committees in the new system.

The group felt it wise to have supervision of the entire election, so that in the event of a major issue, it could be referred to this committee of three composed of the president of the Student Association, president of Day Students organization and a member from the senior class at large.

The coordination of the day student activities and boarding students activities should help to make a stronger unity between the two. The representative from the senior class, who will be appointed by the council, will better represent the students in the elections. These three, who are juniors or seniors will have a background of experience with elections and will be better prepared to meet the problems and view them objectively.

THE BALLOT COMMITTEE

The ballot committee which is composed of the retiring presidents of the Student Association, Christian Association, Athletic Association, Senior Class and the vice president of Student Association and the Editor of the White Heather. This committee is the "working" committee, that is it is responsible for registration of students, for preparing the student poll and voting blanks, and for tabulating the results of the poll and voting. The ballot committee also provides information about each candidate for office. It is also this committee which decides the amount of campaigning which will be allowed. Those who wish to withdraw from the contest or who wish to enter must go through the ballot committee.

PUBLICATION BOARD

The Publication Board is another addition to electoral system. It is the coordinator of all campus publications composed of the retiring editors of the White Heather, Pine and

Thistle and Skirl. These editors at a previous meeting with their respective staffs decide upon suggestions for nominees for editorship. At a special meeting of the Publications Board, the nominees are selected from all suggested names. If a student wishes to nominate someone, he must make the suggestions to the Board members before nominations are made.

The publications editors know the most effective and capable workers on their staff and therefore are in better position to judge the persons with the greatest potential as editors.

REGISTRATION

In all political elections citizens must register before voting for the candidate of their choice. Those who are really interested in the welfare of the country and in the leaders of the country will pre-register in order to have the privilege of casting a vote.

Therefore, the Electoral committee felt, after studying and comparing other college systems, that if our new system of elections is to be democratic, that students should register before nominating or voting for someone. Citizenship in any community as well as in a college community is a privilege and at the same time a responsibility. If we as students do not accept the responsibility which citizenship carries with it, such as voting, then we have no just right to criticize our leaders.

VALUES OF VOTE

Some have questioned the

points placed on votes in the election of officers, quoting from the system:

"Each student must indicate on her ballot her first choice and may indicate her second, third, and fourth choice of those nominated for the office. A first choice vote will receive four points; a second choice vote will receive three points; a third choice vote will receive two points; a fourth choice vote will receive one point. The nominee receiving the highest number of points shall be elected to the office."

The purpose for the points is to show where the majority of student support lies. For example, a candidate can win an election mainly on second choice votes which give three points even though her opponents have divided among them the remaining first choice votes. There may be divided support in the first choice votes, but the point system shows more people are willing to follow one person by second place selection than any of the other possible three candidates in first choice.

The voter does not have to select a second choice; it is his decision.

ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

The eligibility to hold an office is still based on the grade-point system, that is in order to hold a student council position one must have an 84.5 grade average. This is not stated in the new system of campus elections but is stated in the college handbook.

Three New Faces

by Marion Davis

Since the beginning of second semester three new faces have been seen on our dorm halls and in addition, one which was familiar to us last year. We all remember Dewitt Dukes, a junior from Mobile, Alabama, and we are happy to have her back on campus.

Betty Lou Futrell, a Presbyterian and a junior transfer from Campbell College, hails from Lucama, North Carolina, as a home economics major. She is very much homesick for Campbell where she has a brother in school. She says it's so different here, especially due to its deficiency of male students. Her comment: "I never knew men were such a vital part of me; so far I have liked my classes." If you see her around apparently in a daze, you can be sure she is thinking of the good old days at Campbell. She is rooming with Pauline Hewett on Vardell II.

The Conservatory has had an addition with the coming of Virginia Woods, a church music

major from Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. Ginny, a sophomore, was born in Roanoke although she has lived in many different places and has even traveled abroad. Her father is a chaplain at Fort Bragg. She thinks that Flora Macdonald is "fabulous." For one thing, the rooms are larger and nicer here and the conservatory doesn't close at 5:00 p.m. as was true at Susquehanna. She rooms with Elaine Evans, also on Vardell II.

Twinkle Burns is the sole newcomer to the freshman class. This is her first semester in college. Since graduation from high school last spring, she has worked first in Memphis, Tennessee, and then in a hotel in Dillon, her hometown, until three weeks prior to her arrival here. Being a business student, she has already become acquainted with the business department and likes it. She has found a friendly atmosphere here and likes the girls, especially "the Crew." One thing she has noticed is the many dating

rules but no one to date. She says she has a good class schedule with no first period classes and would like to have more breakfast cuts. She shares a room with Meredith Davis on Morgan III.

We all want to give these girls a big welcome to our campus. We want them to feel at home and hope that they will grow to like F.M.C. more and more.



Last In Concert Series - February 20

On Friday evening, February 20, 1959, the last in the concert lectures series will be presented. Varel and Bailly with their Chanteurs de Paris offer a novel concert program which they describe as a light-hearted journey through French song. Song, they remind us, was the first medium whereby man made known to the world his hopes, fears, loves, tragedies, and philosophies. So, starting with the

close of the Dark Ages, these two experts in the writing of songs present their own entertaining, melodic picture of French life.

Beginning with the days when wandering minstrels sang of wars, heros and the glories of the Church, they take their listeners on to the gay, witty, and artificial court life of the Louis' and then to the romance and drama of the 19th century. Finally, in our own time and through their own compositions, Varel and Bailly give us the essence of contemporary French music of the cafes and bistros, their satire and vignettes of daily life and their great "joie de vivre."

France's joyous troubadours, Les Chanteurs de Paris, made their first American concert tour in 1958, a tour which was gay and successful. During that tour they sang in some of the following colleges and Universities: University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana; Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas; University of Texas, Austin, Texas; and others.