

EDITORIAL

On December 20, 1967, the faculty passed the Convocations proposal as it was proposed by Dean Moore. If sufficient funds are made available the system will go into effect in the fall.

The main points are as follows: 1) All students will be required to attend these Convocations for at least six semesters with three unexcused cuts per semester. 2) If so desired the student may register for one semester hour's credit per semester for a maximum of eight semesters. 4) Students presently enrolled will be given one unit of attendance requirement for each semester they have been at Wesleyan. 5) Transfer students will attend according to the schedule which appears in the context of the proposal.

This proposal will afford an excellent opportunity for the entire student body. The presence of nationally recognized figures on this campus will hopefully act as an intellectual stimulus, and provide the means to gain first-hand, expert reports and opinions. This can only be of benefit to the campus.

The suggestions developed by the study committee, under Hal Lloyd, were all adopted except for the substitution of chapel attendance for Convocations attendance. By making the credit aspect of the proposal optional, the faculty was able to provide a system which replaced chapel with a program of vital relevance and interest, while at the same time helping to both insure foundation support and allowing the student to decide whether or not he wishes to gain academic credit. This was an extremely wise and fortunate decision on their part. At last their will be an incentive to bring the student body to our weekly required gathering. I for one wish that this proposal meets with the greatest of success.

The complete proposal is as follows:

1. In the long tradition of church-supported liberal arts and science colleges in this country, chapel programs have served the purposes of general education and in their own way have made an unique contribution to the life of the spirit for those who attended this kind of college. Assuming that this statement about the past is fair, without offering evidence here to support the proposition, it must be admitted that not every chapel program on every campus has indeed been worthwhile, and not every effort to preserve the value of chapel on this and other contemporary college campuses has been successful.
2. The purpose of this proposal on Convocations is to achieve the good ends of the tradition by seeking new forms and methods. The specific goals for the new Convocations program are:
 - a. To deal with the great issues of our age, including the social, economic, political, scientific, artistic, moral and religious questions.
 - b. To relate these issues to the life and understanding of the student.
 - c. To show the relevance of religious faith to these questions.
 - d. To furnish a context of universal discourse for our academic community.
 - e. To enhance the sense of community by symbolic acts of the whole community assembled and involved in ultimate issues.
3. The methods of achieving these aims are as follows:
 - a. There will be eight major convocations each academic year with a theme for each month. An authority in each field will be brought to campus for each monthly convocation. Whenever possible, the convocation speaker will be asked to remain throughout the day and overnight to meet with students and campus groups.
 - b. Each theme will be pursued throughout the month by weekly programs at the convocation hour. The talent for the weekly programs will be gathered from faculty-staff-students as well as regional area resource people. The programs will take the forms of panel discussions, open forums, skits and discussions, formal debates or formal address, and mass media presentations. Follow-up discussion groups could be arranged when the interest warrants it.
 - c. Students will be required to attend Convocations for six semesters. They may take the Convocations program for elective credit of one semester hour per semester up to eight semesters. Presently enrolled students will be given credit for whatever chapel services they have attended. Transfer students will be required to attend on the following basis:
 - A third semester transfer—5 semesters
 - A fourth semester transfer—4 semesters
 - A fifth semester transfer—3 semesters
 - A sixth semester transfer—2 semesters
 - A seventh semester transfer—1 semester
 A student may earn as much as 8 s.h. credit toward the graduation requirements.
4. Since Convocations is a program of study, it is assumed that an amount of study equal to that of any other 1 s.h. earned will be required of the student when Convocations is taken for credit. Readings will be assigned in the "issue" of the month with a variety of methods used, such as group discussions, to help the student. His achievement in understanding the new knowledge, insight, and relationships between disciplines will be evaluated by quizzes and examinations each semester. No quality points may be earned; the grades will be S and U. An honors list will be compiled each semester of those who made substantial contributions to the program and showed superior grasp of the issues.



Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir:

Here are the reasons that preclude my ever approving or taking part in an Honor System:

I am among the first to perceive the need for uniform conduct in groups of men. I cannot conceive that any group of men, any society, could long function without those necessary props to the stability of society, laws. I believe that honest men can find common beliefs which can then give rise to systems of law that the majority of individuals would have no difficulty in obeying. Every society in History has had some system of laws, and these systems of laws have been generally more beneficial than destructive in that they

give stability to society and, usually, some measure of security to the individuals in society.

Systems of law have in common the fact that they are needed by societies and the fact that there must be a force to back them up. From those common points they can diverge greatly in form and content, some being more and some less than they ought in my opinion to be.

In general, there are occasional infractions by individuals against the system of law under which they happen to be living. Under most modern, equitable systems of law, individuals who break laws or who are accused of having broken laws are seized and tried legally for the charges brought against them. They are either acquitted legally of the charges brought against them or they are condemned legally to suffer some punishment for the crime which it has been decided that they have

The following action which is of interest to students was taken by faculty on December 12, 1967:

- (1) Summer session for 1968 is to be a two term session.
- (2) The faculty rejected a motion to abolish Saturday classes for the Spring Semester of 1968 in favor of one to refer the matter to the Educational Program Committee for study. The Committee has been instructed to report back to the faculty by April 15, 1968.
- (3) A special sessions type of curriculum was approved for the Fall of 1968. Essentially, this program would establish the following calendar for 1968-69:
 - (a) A 14 week semester ending before Christmas.
 - (b) A 14 week semester ending around May 1.
 - (c) A 4 week term during the month of May.
 The 4 week term would be a special session given over to special projects by all students working with faculty members. This special session still has a lot of work to be done so I see no need to give it a great deal of publicity at this time. Sometime in the next semester I would like to see an Assembly period devoted to a discussion of this entire change.

5. Since Convocations will be an academic exercise, the instruction and supervising cost will come in part from the instructional budget. It is hoped that foundation help may be secured to match our funds in order to secure speakers of national and international stature. A faculty member should be appointed as director of Convocations to spend half time in the instruction and supervision of the academic work and in the coordinating of the program. A committee made up of students, faculty and administration officers will give advice and consent to the leadership of the director. The director of Convocations will be appointed in the same way as faculty members.

6. This new program should be installed beginning with the academic year 1968-69 and should run for a term of three years as an experiment. After that time the college may determine its desirability as a permanent part of the academic program.

committed. When an individual is condemned to suffer some punishment, there is no presumption of his having committed a moral crime; there is only mention of his having contravened a system of law, of his having committed a legal crime. In Great Britain, the judge sentencing a man to death says after having read the sentence, "...and may God have mercy on your soul." The convict, whether he has been convicted of murder or of shop-lifting, has been convicted of having broken a legal law, not a moral law. The question of morality, of men's souls, is left unconsidered; as I believe that it should be.

It is on this point that I oppose an Honor System, for at this point an Honor System becomes more than a system of law, more than Man needs or can justify imposing on anyone other than himself. For, by the nature of its promulgation and enforcement, an Honor System has behind it, as well as the force of legality, the force of morality. An Honor System allows man to damn man, not just to condemn him through legal premises and processes. I hold that only God can damn a man. (And if God does not exist, then no one can.) Morality, Honor, is a question of the individual's soul, and I leave it to the individual and expect him to leave it to me.

I defend the philosophy of the system of laws, of the legality, that can, if it must, condemn a man. But I grant it to no one to damn a man's soul; as an Honor System presumes to do. It is my sincere hope that the Wesleyan student body will not be so dishonest to itself, or so dishonorable, as to choose an Honor System over any system of laws; for whatever flaws we may have in our present system of laws, our present system of laws at least does not presume to the Hubris of thinking itself eternal or so powerful as to condemn an immortal human soul.

Thank you very much,
Sincerely,
Ed (Peabody) Smith

Seminar Proposed

--Oberlin, Ohio--(I.P.)--A new approach to the teaching of psychology is being tried at Oberlin College this semester. Twenty-two senior majors are planning and running their own seminar on Experimental Approaches to Clinical Psychology.

The idea for the seminar developed last spring during student-faculty discussions on departmental offerings. It is an effort to show students that problems in clinical psychology can be approached through experimental procedures.

The seminar is restricted to seniors majoring in psychology and is being offered on a credit/no credit basis. Robert E. Dixon, associate professor of psychology at Oberlin, is the liaison between participants and the psychology faculty.

Students in the seminar have invited seven distinguished outside lecturers to speak to them. The talks are open to the public, but discussion following each talk is limited to participants and psychology staff members.

Seminar students prepare for the talks by reading and discussion the week preceding each psychologist's visit to campus. Reading materials are suggested by the speakers and the weekly discussions are led by Oberlin professors whose research and interests lie in the various areas.