

Few Would Recommend Drama School

SURVEY, From Page 1

students checked "incapable of running the department" and "incompetent" and 3 students checked "weak" and "incapable of running the department."

Only four students said Pollock was "competent" and none checked a box marked "highly competent."

Most written comments made in designated spaces were unfavorable but some students, a small percentage, made favorable comments.

"The teachers themselves are quite willing to communicate with students on an individual level..." said one student.

"I like the atmosphere and am optimistic about changes in the department," said another.

Pollock Comments

When shown the unofficial questionnaire results now in, Pollock said, "I cannot give a quick and unconsidered comment."

The results confirm a feeling on campus expressed privately and at random by students for some time. The survey is the first time students have researched the depth of the resentment and issued a report.

The report was initiated by Brad White, student government president, in an effort to let Dr. Suderburg (our new Chancellor) know of the problems (or lack of problems) of our Drama Department," according to a statement attached to the survey forms.

"I believe this is a good opportunity to express our voice to a new ear," the statement said.

White Conducts

White said he was conducting the survey "only as an interested student and not as SCA president."

White said "Ron tries to please everyone and by doing so pleases no one. I really like him and I think he is really a nice guy but he can't run the department."

Apathy

"People are going to Europe to get away, apathy is really a serious problem in the drama department right now, and there are drama seniors here with no arts classes," White said.

"I'm not out to save teachers or to cut their throats, I just want to see the department become what it should be."

White said about 80 of the survey forms were distributed to drama students.



Ronald Pollock

There are 78 students in the drama department. He said he prepared the questions with the help of a non-drama faculty member whose name he would not disclose.

He said that everyone in the drama department either was handed a questionnaire or one was put in his mailbox. White said that he kept a list of names of the people who returned completed questionnaires to prevent "stuffing".

Results of the survey are unscientific because there was no way to determine who actually filled out the questionnaires since they were anonymous.

Aaron Levin, a senior drama major, said about the survey, "I did fill it out, thought twice and tore it up. The survey was poorly constructed, unobjective, and very biased. The sentences were constructed to get the negative response. I agree that one can say anything one wishes no matter whether it is poorly constructed or not, but I personally refuse to be akin to what was going on. I refuse to do it. It's so ugly."

Amy Wood, a junior drama major said, "I was told it was not to be used as a weapon of any sort. I regret having participated in the survey, I regret it."

"I think everyone in the department should have been invited to attend the meeting in Ward's office Monday," said

Ms. Wood referring to a meeting called by the chancellor. Selected students received memorandums from Chancellor Ward saying "I would very much like to meet with you to discuss informally certain matters relating to the Drama program. Would it be possible for you to meet with me in the Conference Room next to my office at 12:30 P.M. on Monday, May 13? I believe that it will not require more than a half hour, so that perhaps we can all have some lunch first and then meet." Twenty-three students were invited to attend the meeting.

13 Questions

The survey contains 13 numbered questions, some with sub-questions and is two pages long.

In response to the question "Do you feel that anything will be done by the Drama Dept. to improve the department as a result of this inquiry?" Thirty students said they did not think so and 7 said they did.

When asked why, students said: "The students are considered least important. What we say, do, want, need or feel is totally ignored by the dean and faculty."

"Give this to Chancellor Suderberg and something might be done—but otherwise, how can an incompetent dean and faculty choose competent new teachers? They'd be out of a job!" said a student.

Response

In response to a question asking for an explanation of what is thought to be the drama department's major problems, students said:

"There are no policies. I can't think of one. The faculty is hostile to each other. There is no organization at the top of the department."

"There are no policies that are kept due to a Dean that can be pushed around," said a student.

"This dept. isn't geared to training actors—it's geared to the distraction of any talent that happens to walk into this school."

No Organization

Fifty students said they felt the drama department does not proceed in an organized fashion. There were no students who said it did.

When asked to explain why, students said:

"The dean does not stick to policies and is weak and ineffective," said another student.

"There is not enough space and paper to tell you!" said a student.

"Because nobody in the department knows shit about what they should...if Ron were a good dean, we'd have a good department."

Other Comments

Other comments were: "It seems a disinterested dean is the basis of all, or at least most of our problems...He has been just getting by for too long."

Of those responding 7 said they are in high school, 10 college freshmen, 12 sophomores, 13 juniors and 10 seniors.

Forty said the department was disorganized before the resignation of members of the faculty and 3 said it occurred after those resignations. Forty-one said it would continue and one said it would not.

Favorite Instructors

Donald Hotton, the instructor who resigned this year, won an overwhelming 34 votes in a question asking students to pick their favorite teachers. Barry Boys was second with 11 votes, and Robert Murray was third with eight.

William Dryer, James Beard and "none" tied with 3 votes each and William Jaeger, and Ronald Pollock received no votes.

Among other results:

Thirty students said they don't feel just acting teachers should direct major productions. Two said they should.

Thirty-four said visiting directors should direct a majority of the major productions and eight said they should not.

Twenty-eight students said they would return next year and 13 said they would not. Of those who said they would not, 10 said it was because of the present department.

Only three students said they think the casting of non-paying NCSA graduates in school productions can benefit them; 45 said they thought it could not.

The drama department has had a history of discord. In December of 1970 drama students marched into chancellor Ward's office and demanded improvements in the drama program. In 1971 interested students presented recommendations for improvements to the drama faculty. This year student representatives have been meeting with the drama faculty to discuss changes in policy and curriculum.

London Program For Drama May Be Scrapped

By SONNY LINDER

Essay Staff Reporter

Chancellor Robert Ward said in a meeting on May 8 that the year in England for certain drama juniors and seniors was still being planned, but warned students that the program could be cancelled if too few students sign up. Ward met with 16 drama juniors and seniors as well as Dean Ronald Pollock and speech teacher Ms. Lesley Hunt.

Other topics such as travel, housing, health care, classes, and tuition and fees were also discussed in the hour-long meeting held in Crawford Hall's recital room.

Withdrawals

Ward and Pollock expressed concern about the recent number of withdrawals from the program by drama students. Ward said that if any fewer than the sixteen students who were present at the meeting decided to go on the 8-month London session to begin in Oct., 1974, he seriously doubted whether the trip would be feasible.

When asked by SCA president Brad White, who also attended the meeting, whether the students knew why they were going on the junket, Ward received answers from the students generally confirming the benefits of the London environment such as theatre, classes, and culture. In answer to a question about the fate of the returning North Carolina students, Ward replied that the drama department would probably continue as it has in past years.

Financial Help

The chancellor also said that the NCSA Foundation would provide \$10,000 in financial help for needy students in the London program.

Answering student's questions about the London program's generalities, Dean Pollock explained that all housing, "bed and board" and health care would be included in a \$1000 fee asked of participating students. This fee would be in addition to the regular room, board, and tuition fees paid by regular stateside drama students of NCSA.

Pollock said that one fourth of the \$1000 would be paid in September and one fourth in January of the coming school year. Students enrolled in the program already have paid \$250 in March, 1974, and will owe another \$250 in June, 1974.

The remainder of the tuition and fees would be paid on a semester basis in September and January of the upcoming school year, Pollock said.

Montreal

The two officials explained that the reason for the March and June \$250 deposits was in order to pay for plane tickets from Montreal, Canada, instead of New York City or Washington, D.C., as was originally anticipated. The recent rescission of international youth travel discounts made Montreal the only feasible departure location, explained Ward. The government of Canada still allows youth discount rates, he said.

Classes would be supervised and programmed by Mr. James Dodding in conjunction with Morely College, London, and several independent acting and movement teachers in the greater London area, said Pollock. (See N.C. ESSAY story "Drama London Program", April, 1974 issue.)

Ready To Go

The program looks practically ready to go as of now, said Dean Pollock. They just have to make certain enough spaces are filled by students, and that the inflation situation does not change between now and October.

SCA Allocates \$24,300 For Next School Year

By DAVID WINSLOW

Essay Staff Reporter

The Student Council Association, after lengthy debate, approved on May 1 uses of \$24,300 in student funds for the 1974-75 school year.

The groundwork for the distribution of the money was laid in a committee meeting headed by Bill Williams, business secretary. The expenditures part of the budget is based up on a projected enrollment of 540 students at \$45 per person. The \$45 is paid by all students at \$15 a trimester under the heading of the student activities fee.

- Highlights of the budget include:
 - Film series, up \$800 from last year to \$3200.
 - N C Essay, up \$200 from last year to \$4000.
 - Applause, up \$500 from last year to \$750.
 - Maintenance and repairs, down \$600 from \$1600 last year.
 - A 60 to 100 per cent salary increase for all SCA officers (except the president).
 - A salary increase for Judicial Board chairman.
 - Creation of a salary for Review Board chairman.
 - \$500 for the Creative Learning Center, \$100 of that amount for percussion instruments.

Movies

David Belnap, director of student activities, stated that the \$800 increase in the film series would go toward bringing in such films as "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," "A Clockwork Orange"

and "Gone With the Wind."

The \$200 increase slated for the Essay is to cover the cost of purchasing used typewriters, increased printing costs and a \$150 salary increase for the advisor.

The increase in the Applause budget was approved on the assumption that the allocation would be paid back to the council by the end of the year. Applause, under the direction of Prudence Mason, almost broke even this year. Next year it is projected to be a profit-making venture for the council.

No reason was given for the decrease in the maintenance and repairs portion of the budget.

The budget committee felt that salary increases were needed for SCA officers to allow for additional duties that they have recently been assigned. The business secretary, for example, must handle the refrigerator rentals each term and other new SCA projects.

Salaries

The increase in salary for the position of Judicial Board chairman was approved after Steve Wellman, present Judicial Board chairman, explained to the council in an earlier meeting that many hours are involved in his duties.

After someone pointed out that the Review Board has a similar work load, it was moved to salary that position also. The allocation of \$100 for the percussion instruments for the Creative Learning Center caused the most debate. Council members passed the \$100 allocation only after an understanding was reached that it was not to be an annual allocation.