Senate Must Follow Progress Of Bill

BY CARL BAAB

Three controversial student senate-passed bills, not heard from for some time, are patiently awaiting the final decision of high administration officials.

The senate’s legislation to ban smoking in campus classrooms and lecture halls that was passed late last fall has its fate now being decided by the Faculty Advisory Committee. According to SGA President Rita McKinney, a decision on the issue may come in March.

Two more recently passed senate bills, one allowing students to store bicycles in dorms and another providing 24-hour open house on an experimental basis in the new Bates dorm, have ended up on the desk of Vice President for Student Affairs, Charles Witten. According to Witten, however, a final decision on these is pending further study.

Other universities in the Southeast, including the University of North Carolina, allow students to keep bikes in the dorms, said Witten, and “we are studying the success of their systems.”

Consideration of the bill to allow the 24-hour open house in Bates West is less definite. According to SGA sources, the administration is saying there is some Board op-

Analysis

position to the plan.

These bills are just three examples of what has become an increasing problem for student government. Legislation initiated by the student senate and signed by the SGA president ultimately ends up in the administration where final approval is made.

There is no time limit on what the administration may decide to do with a given bill. Technically it is up to USC President Thomas F. Jones to make the final decision, but many of his decisions are usually based on recommendations from other administration officials who have specific knowledge or responsibility concerning any given senate legislation.

Often the recommendations are slow in coming to Jones or he himself may postpone a decision indefinitely. This ultimately results in situations like the one now confronting the three aforementioned bills. The issues are old now and often the campus has entirely forgotten them. When this happens, pressure of administration officials lessens and a bill’s chance of final passage is lesser.

To combat this situation the senate formed a committee called the Legislative Enactment Committee to follow all senate bills before the administration, and trace their progress. However, the committee’s success has not, apparently, been as great as its creators had hoped.

Berlin Resigns Post As Ombudswoman

Student Ombudswoman Eileen Berlin resigned from her office Friday because her duties were beginning to take up too much time. The resignation is effective today.

Berlin’s decision was made after University Counsel Mike Green asked the office to become the University’s full-time counsel.

“Before, it was just a matter of putting in spare time,” Berlin said. “With Mike leaving it meant that the remaining ombudspersons would have to put in 15 hours a week. I looked at my time schedule and thought my duties were interfering with government projects and had to make a decision.”

Berlin is president of Baker dorm and is Secretary of Student Welfare in the Student Government Association. Her activities have inspired the introduction of five bills in the Student Senate this year.

“My main student government projects have been concerned with preregistration, academic fairness and housing problems. When it came down to choosing between ombudsperson and student government I decided to focus on the stuff I’d been working on all year with student government,” Berlin said.

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