University's faculty rating goes up in national survey

The quality of Michigan State's graduate faculty in several selected disciplines — notably the physical and biological sciences — has risen significantly in the past five years. The same is true for the effectiveness of selected MSU doctoral programs. That's the judgment of some 6,000 scholars from across the nation who rated the graduate faculties of 130 institutions in 36 disciplines. The ratings, compiled in 1969 for the American Council on Education, were released last week. They are compared with similar ACE ratings conducted in 1964.

Graduate faculties at this university are listed in the ratings of 30 of the 36 disciplines which ACE evaluated. MSU graduate faculty quality was ranked in the highest category ("strong" to "distinguished") in 12 fields; the 1964 study rated only three MSU departmental faculties in this category. The highest rating was earned by botany, where graduate faculty quality was ranked ninth in the nation, tied with Cornell. Botany was the highest ranked (13th) MSU graduate faculty in the 1964 report.

Other high-ranking graduate faculties in the new survey included: Entomology (12th), population biology (13th), sociology (17th), zoology (18th), psychology (20th), chemistry (tied for 24th), electrical engineering (24th), physiology (25th), microbiology (24th), biochemistry (28th), and molecular biology (29th).

MSU reactions, page 2

EIGHT OF THE 12 high-rated areas at MSU were judged to have improved in quality over the 1964 survey. Of the other four, sociology held its 1964 rank, biochemistry at MSU was not included in the 1964 survey, and both molecular biology and population biology are listed as disciplines for the first time.

In a category which rated "effectiveness of doctoral program," 11 of the 12 top disciplines here ranked in the top 30 nationally. Electrical engineering's numerical rank in this category was not given.

MSU disciplines where graduate faculty quality rated "good" (the category immediately below "strong" to "distinguished") are English, philosophy, anthropology, economics (rated under social sciences in the survey), geography, history, political science, mathematics, physics, developmental biology, civil engineering, and mechanical engineering.

Graduate faculty quality at Michigan State was rated "adequate - plus" in these areas: French, German, music, Spanish, geology, and chemical engineering.

Improving in rank or appearing for the first time are: English, French, German, philosophy, Spanish, anthropology, history, mathematics, chemical engineering, and mechanical engineering.

Several areas in which MSU offers doctoral programs are not rated, including such colleges as agriculture, business (except economics), communication arts, education, human ecology, human medicine and veterinary medicine.

(Continued on page 2)

From Massey to Taylor: Two views

(Professor) Thomas Greer

Between the Academic Council, Faculty Steering Committee, department and subcommittee meetings, Thomas H. Greer, professor of humanities, figures he's spent hundreds of hours during the last three years discussing student participation in academic government.

He says he has long been an advocate of student participation, particularly through student advisory committees. "I felt that close rapport with students was essential," he said.

He has also long been involved in the faculty role in academic government, recalling that he was a member of the committee which developed the original faculty constitution.

And he remembers, when the Academic Council was established less than a decade ago, that former President John Hannah and other administrators asked the same questions about faculty that faculty today are asking about students.

THE ISSUE, Greer says, has been divisive in the faculty.

But, he added, "how else do you get change? It shows life in a faculty, and I'm not upset about that at all."

He also said that the divisive issue of student participation has served to clarify faculty thinking, leading to a "breakthrough," in faculty attitudes.

"I believe a solid faculty majority believes student participation is a desirable thing," he said. "The differences are in how much and in what way."

Three years ago, when the first report on student participation was released, this wasn't the case.

That original report, the Massey Report, was considered far too extreme.

(Continued on page 4)

(Professor) Thomas Greer

A "breakthrough" in attitudes.

Mark Bathurst was a freshman when the Massey Report on student participation in academic government was being written.

Three years and three documents later, he is a junior and vice chairman of ASMSU, and is still waiting for a final decision on the issue. The decision may come at next week's Academic Senate meeting.

(Continued on page 4)

Council to meet today

Three more amendments to the report on student participation in academic government will be proposed at today's academic council meeting at 3:15 p.m. in the Con Coon Room of the International Center.

The three proposed amendments will be presented by Sandra A. Warden, interim chairman of the University Faculty Affairs Committee. One amendment relates to the frequency of mandatory reports to be made by representatives of standing committees to their respective constituencies of or advisory councils. Two other amendments relate to the University Curriculum Committee, the selection of its chairmen and the position of an executive secretary.

Other items on the agenda include: A Dec. 2 (tied for 24th), physiology (25th), microbiology (24th), biochemistry (28th), and molecular biology (29th).

Other amendments relate to the University Curriculum Committee, the selection of its chairmen and the position of an executive secretary.

Other agenda items include: (Continued on page 4)

(Professor) Thomas Greer

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued on page 4)

Bathurst, who has followed the three documents closely, expresses disappointment and frustrations after three years. But he says he "wouldn't give up hope," and is willing, if necessary, to work on a fourth report.

From the Massey (original) Report to the Taylor (current) Report, Bathurst has these reactions:

The Massey Report: He was pleased with it, he said. But he said it was "rather ambiguous, and I knew there would be recommendations and objections." Bathurst said he wasn't surprised when that report went to a second committee, chaired by James McKee, professor of sociology.

The McKee Report: "An awfully lot of work," he said. When that report was not accepted by the Academic Senate last spring, he was disappointed, he said, but "not overly upset. We'd heard the rumors that there was no way it would pass."

The Taylor Report: There were no student on that three-member panel, though students were involved through hearings. Bathurst said that students "were excluded from the Taylor deliberations," though they had been closely involved in deliberations with the previous committee. It's been pointed out that the Taylor panel was established to deal with the Senate's specific objections to the McKee
Faculty quality ranked . . .

(Coordinated from page 1)

The ACE report, “A rating of Graduate Education,” is coauthored by Kenneth D. Roose, former council vice president, and Charles J. Andersen, a member of the ACE staff.

The new survey is "essentially replication" of the 1964 report, “An Assessment of Quality in Graduate Education,” by Allan Carter. More than 26,000 copies of the Carter report have thus far been distributed, according to ACE.

Roose and Andersen explain that their purpose “is to furnish prospective graduate students with information on faculties and programs.”

They add: “Beyond this function, however, we hope the ratings will assist academic administrators in making judgments about allocations of resources and support to graduate programs. It is in this sense of increased concern over the accountability of higher education, academic authorities and policymakers need – and are clamoring for – measures to help them determine the success or shortcomings of current policies and to assist them in planning for higher education.”

Roose and Andersen emphasize that the study has tried to "deemphasize the pecking-order relationships inherent in most scoring systems, for it is not our purpose to rank, we defer to the experts. We have, therefore, not presented scores for individual institutions."

The report notes that nationally the most dramatic development in graduate education since 1964 "is the improvement in the rated quality of faculty in a large number of graduate programs." Of the 1,600 programs rated in 1964, about three-fourths of them showed an increase in 1969 in the quality of graduate faculty.

But it also showed that nearly 30 percent of the 1,600 programs rated in 1969 scored less than 2.0 on a 5.0 scale, which would classify them as marginally adequate.

Roose and Andersen listed these concerns:

1. While many graduate programs have improved, "we must stress the need to give equivalent recognition and support to the improvement of undergraduate programs, for many institutions have become increasingly sensitive to deficiencies and inadequacies of their baccalaureate offerings."

2. "There is an apparent duplication of Ph.D. resources, especially among some public institutions in a given state who strive for excellence in identical fields."

3. "It may no longer be feasible to add quality and programs in areas of "relatively abundant production" of traditional Ph.D. degrees."

4. "From the standpoint of national policy," the authors say, "consideration must be given to the possibility that in the future a more than sufficient supply of Ph.D.'s for most traditional uses can be trained in the graduate programs of, say, 50 or so top-rated institutions."


Letter

Senate should honor pledge

To the Editor:

Last May, the Academic Senate endorsed the general principle of student participation in the academic government, and for eight months the battle for the mechanics of participation. Not everyone is satisfied with the outcome, commonly called the Taylor Report; some faculty members feel that there are some few safeguards for faculty prerogatives and ultimately for faculty job security. Some students feel that vital principles have been sacrificed in revising the McKee Report.

Certainly the proceedings of this committee, as you have already seen, have been at times hopelessly confusing, and there philosophies and principles already adopted is wasteful of time and energy which could be better spent in more direct means of education.

On the other hand, an ostrich-like position advocating nothing, hoping that this too will pass, is unrealistic. The history of American higher education – the turbulent decade of the 1960's, notwithstanding – has often involved stormy clashes between students and faculty. Repeatedly the Taylor Report in the hope that students will again become apathetic is short-sighted.

The adversary relationship between students and faculty will not end, but it can be carried from the pages of the State News and from the pickets lines into the academic forum for discussion and debate. We encourage the faculty members to attend the Academic Senate meeting Jan. 30 to operationalize their commitment of last May.

The Coordinating Committee
Students in Academic Government

AAP meeting

The MSU chapter of the American Association of University Professors will meet Monday (Jan. 18) at 7:30 p.m. in Room 35, Union Building.

The agenda includes a discussion of the Taylor Report, a report on changes in the proposed committee on compensation and academic budget, and a discussion of whether the AAUP should seek to become a bargaining agent here.

The MSU reaction: Use care in concluding from survey

Few administrators at Michigan State found reason to challenge the newly released quality rating of American graduate programs, but several expressed the need to be cautious in drawing conclusions from the report.

There should be no cause to discount the report, some said, because the University's graduate faculties are rated highly "(strong)" to "(distinguished)" in 12 disciplines, and graduate faculties have appeared in the rankings of 30 to 36 disciplines surveyed.

The report is based on a 1969 survey of 130 graduate institutions by the American Council on Education.

It reveals that Michigan State has maintained a high number of disciplines, since its ratings in 14 areas were higher than they were in a 1964 report. The University's graduate faculties in five other disciplines were rated for the first time.

"IF YOU consider the report for what it is and the way it was done, it's an excellent job," noted Clarence W. Minkel, associate dean of the graduate school.

But Minkel suggested several factors for consideration before conclusions are drawn from the study: There are some 2,600 institutions of higher education in the U.S., only about 325 of which have "substantial" graduate programs. Only 130 schools were included in the ACE survey, and in each discipline the highest rank was usually reserved for no more than 30 institutions.

On the basis of these figures, he noted, inclusion in the survey itself is an acknowledgement of excellence, and a rating in any area (MSU was mentioned in 30 of 36 disciplines) is even further acknowledgement.

Minkel noted that broad areas in which MSU has notably strong programs, such as agriculture, business and education, were not included in the survey.

He also pointed out that the survey, which polled some 6,000 faculty members at the 130 institutions, should favor those universities which have been producing doctoral holders over a long period. MSU, he added, has only recently become a major producer of doctors.

(As recently as 1950, the University awarded only 38 doctorates. The total grew to 268 in 1965, to 530 in 1969, and to 676 last year.)

Minkel observed that potentially useful information not included in the report is a list of institutions from which the 6,000 faculty "judges" received their doctorates.

(The report's authors said that each of the 130 participating institutions was asked to furnish the names of from one to four scholars in each of the 36 disciplines rated.

TWO ADMINISTRATORS from the College of Natural Science, Richard U. Byrum and James W. Butcher, said they were pleased with the improvement shown by MSU's ratings in the physical and biological sciences.

Butcher, assistant dean of the college, said he was impressed by these findings:

"There are no weak programs (in natural science), and there is a gratifyingly uniform level of excellence (nine departments in the top ranking).

None of our programs has peaked out qualitatively." Byrum, dean of natural science, said that MSU's improvement in rating indicates that some of the young faculty members are already having an impact in their fields. He also said that high ratings were beneficial in that they could help MSU scientists and programs continue to earn significant amounts of federal support.

THE DEAN of social science, C. L. Winder, said he viewed the survey as valid, but he also warned against drawing too many inferences from the results.

Winder said that the ratings would not necessarily have direct impact on future decisions and policies in graduate education.

Minkel agreed with this contention. He said that future decision-making in graduate education probably won't involve much "outrage, conscious action based on this survey."

The support that various areas receive, Minkel said, is determined largely by the demand for graduate education in the disciplines and by the dynamism of the faculty.

— GENE RIETFORS

The faculty's quality: Up significantly in some areas. — Photo by Bill Mitcham
'The road to the top is open'

You don’t have to have a Phi Beta Kappa key or wealthy, well-schooled parents to become president of an American university.

According to the author of a new book just published at Michigan State, the sons of farmers, labors and blue collar workers are prominent among the current or recent heads of American institutions of higher learning.

In his book, ‘Profiles of American College Presidents,’ MSU anthropology professor Pierre Ferrari compares and contrasts the origins, family influences, social mobility, education, careers and role perceptions of 760 university presidents. Ferrari is now an assistant professor of management at Kent State.

The book, which evolved from a doctoral dissertation completed at MSU in 1968, contains a foreword by the late author, presidential scholar, sociologist W. Lloyd Warner, who was Ferrari’s thesis adviser.

"THIS STUDY demonstrates," Warner wrote, "that the road to the top is open and can be traversed all the way by men and women of talent, ability and the necessary training."

Warner pointed out that the 760 men and women presidents were carefully drawn from all types of U.S. colleges and universities - Catholic, Protestant, public and private, black and white, large and small, undergraduate and established and graduated institutions.

In section 2.01, "The Individual," the author states that the characteristics of nine categories of academic leaders, from public and Catholic university presidents to independent liberal arts college presidents and the heads of technological institutions, are described.

According to the author, "More American college and university presidents come from professional and executive backgrounds than from lower level occupations, the only exceptions being presidents of Catholic institutions whose fathers held lower and medium level occupations."

In BRIEF, these are his other findings:

- Forty percent of the presidents in the study were born in rural communities under 2,400 population, and 20 percent came from small towns under 25,000.
- Forty-three percent of the presidents’ paternal grandparents were farmers and nearly 45 percent of their parents graduated from high school.
- Wives of presidents come from occupational levels similar to those of the presidents themselves.
- The average president holds a doctorate and has been in the position for eight years; he attains his status when he is 45. Most have had about 10 years full-time, technical administrative experience.

COMPARISONS of presidents of nine different types of institutions, however, reveal some interesting differences. Ferrari found that about half of public university presidents and none of the Catholic university presidents were born in rural communities.

More than half of the Catholic presidents were born in major cities in New York, Pennsylvania or Illinois, while half of the Protestant-related university presidents were born in small towns and rural communities in North Central states.

Ferrari found that fathers of independent university presidents came mainly from positions as major business owners, lawyers and clergy. Nearly half of this group of presidents were born in the New England and Middle Atlantic states, one-third in large cities.

ABOUT A third of the presidents moved to the presidency from other posts within their present institution. This was particularly true among Catholic university presidents.

The study also features quotes from the presidents regarding their perceptions of their careers. Wrote one: "I accepted the challenge of the presidency because I thought I could affect the lives of a greater number of people . . . I also thought the presidency presented one package the 'complete challenge' to all that a man had. It was dangerous; it was costly; it was adventurous; it was exhausting; and yet it was refreshing and invigorating. It was an adequate substitute for total war."

The volume adds to earlier studies concerning America's business and government leaders — studies conducted by Warner in 1955 and 1962.

"Profiles of American College Presidents" is a publication of the MSU Business Studies series produced by the Division of Research, Graduate School of Business Administration.

GAIL MORRIS

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The General Student Regulations (students' handbook) are issued by the Board of Trustees in November to serve on an interim basis until a code of University regulations is developed for students, staff and faculty, according to Eldon R. Nonnamaker, dean of students.

Developed by the University Student Affairs Committee, the regulations have also been approved by the Academic Council and ASMSU.

Section 1.00 - Statement of Purposo.

1.01 - The Michigan State University Community hereby adopts the following General Student Regulations that apply to all registered students and are essential in order to secure the successful operation of the University. The University reserves the right to make any modifications in the regulations to improve the efficiency, quality and effectiveness of University activities.

Section 2.00 - Enforcement.

2.01 - The enforcement of these regulations shall be the responsibility of the duly authorized University officials.

2.02 - All members of the University community are responsible for the support of these regulations.

Section 3.00 - Adjudication.

3.01 - The University Judicial System shall have jurisdiction over all Code of Conduct Regulations, and, upon a verdict of guilt, will set penalties in accordance with the Student Conduct Code.

3.02 - Examination of student properties, equipment, mail, books, etc., in either publicly owned or university-owned buildings, shall be permitted for the purpose of enforcing the University’s regulations.

Section 4.00 - Scholarship and Awards.

The principles of worth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars. The University will honor these principles and in doing protect the interests of all members of the University system.

4.01 - No student shall knowingly, without proper authorization, procure, provide or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment given to another person.

4.02 - No student shall, without proper authorization, complete or in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.

4.03 - No student shall, without proper authorization, knowingly alter, or deface any University examination or assignment, or submit it as his own.

4.04 - No student shall knowingly plagiarize or falsify information contained in his University examination or assignment.

Section 5.00 - Records and Identification.

5.01 - No student shall knowingly alter, or deface any University examination or assignment, or submit it as his own.

5.02 - No student shall, without intent to defraud, alter or forge any official University document, including identification materials issued by the University.

5.03 - No student shall, with intent to defraud, knowingly allow University documents, including identification, that were issued for his use, to be used by another person.

Section 6.00 - University Facilities, Materials and Services.

6.01 - No student shall, without proper authorization, remove any University property from its assigned place.

6.02 - No student shall, without proper authorization, intentionally damage, deface or destroy any University property.

6.03 - No student shall, without proper authorization convey any University property to another person.

6.04 - No student shall knowingly accept any University property procured for him, without proper authorization.

6.05 - No student shall, without proper authorization, enter or desert any construction area, building under construction, rented or room rent of the opposite sex.

6.06 - No student shall, without proper authorization, enter or desert any University building when it is officially closed (as per hours posted on all entrances).

6.07 - No student shall, without proper authorization, erect posters or handbills which advertise any commercial product, service, or activity except on his personal property.

Section 7.00 - The Individual.

If the University is to accomplish its many objectives, there must be recognition that the integrity of the individual is of primary importance.

7.01 - No student shall appropriate the money, tools, materials, instruments, or equipment, temporarily or permanently, without the permission of the owner.

7.02 - No student shall knowingly endanger the health or safety of another person.

7.03 - No student shall, without proper authorization, possess or use any firearms or explosive material on grounds governed by any University regulations.

7.04 - No student shall intentionally interfere with the educational or service functions of the University to such an extent that his activity prohibits the continuation of any of these functions.

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WMSB shows cited by USA

Fifteen television shows produced at MSU have been selected by the United States Information Agency (USIA) for distribution throughout the world early this year.

The programs, originated by WMSB-TV, include the nine-part series, "Beethoven: Sonatas for Violin and Piano," the threepart "Van Cliburn International Piano Competition," and three recitals from "Young Musical Artists."

The Beethoven series was produced by Donald A. Pash, WMSB fine arts producer. The violin and piano recitals were produced by Thomas L. Turk, WMSB fine arts producer.
COGS weighs minority representation

A suggestion that the Council of Graduate Students include special seats for minority and foreign student representatives was discussed at the COGS meeting last week, but no action was taken.

The suggestion came during discussion of revision of the COGS constitution. Because minority and foreign students are a "significant constituency" but "do not seem to be systematically included" in COGS representation, David Wright, COGS vice president for University affairs, suggested that seats for them be provided. He also urged that any such representatives be elected by their constituencies, but he suggested no specific procedures for doing so.

Thomas Greer . . .

(Concluded from page 1)

Greer said, "I remember a sort of shock at the suggestion of students voting."

That, plus the proposed addition of substantial numbers of students to most standing committees, made the report seem "outrageous" to most faculty, Greer said.

WHEN THE Massey Report was revised and became the McKee Report, the resistance was a "somewhat different issue," Greer said. "There was a growing feeling that faculty had certain professional interests and even duties expected from them that they dare not share."

He offered several suggestions as to why the McKee Report was returned to the council by the Academic Senate by a 4-1 vote last spring:

"It may have been partly a case of 'pre-wedding jitters' on the governor's (or faculty's) part - sudden apprehensions about the Pandora's box that might be opened by the box."

"Some felt the document could just be approved. There was the feeling that there should be areas of reserved professional prerogative."

There was some justification for that latter feeling during spring term, Greer said, when letters appeared in the State News in which students said they were "after the faculty's jobs."

"I don't believe most students want that," Greer said. But he added that that sort of thing spurred mental reservations among faculty about the idea of increased student participation.

WHEN THE Academic Senate considers the Taylor Report next week, it has the same three options it had last spring: To accept, defeat or return the proposal to the council. But the Senate has the further option of offering amendments from the floor.

If the report is defeated this time, what will happen?

"I guess there'd be just nothing," Greer said. "Unless someone comes up with an alternative structure, there would be a hiatus of nothing until at least May or until fall."

If passed the report will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. Although faculty bylaw amendments do not normally require trustee approval, the steering committee has decided that addition of students to academic government alters the delegation of that authority to faculty, as granted by the trustees. Hence, their approval sought.

BEVERLY TWITCHELL

Discussion on the suggestion centered on the need for such representation and the logistics for providing it.

Examples of questions asked:

- How do we define minority?
- How do we select minority or foreign student representatives? Through what organizations?
- Do we not trust the departments to be nondiscriminatory in their elections of COGS representatives?
- Wright will describe a more specific proposal for discussion at next week's COGS meeting.

Most of the COGS meeting was taken in discussion of a revised constitution. There is some question as to how the new constitution will be ratified.

According to the old constitution, amendments must be approved by at least three-fourths of the COGS representatives. COGS President Peter Flyer interprets the constitution revision as an amendment.

Mark Bathurst . . .

(Concluded from page 1)

He said his own feeling is that students perhaps should be excluded from salary decisions, and he is willing to concede voting privileges on tenure questions. But he thinks the student viewpoint on tenure questions should be expressed through some sort of mechanism other than an upper legislative body.

Bathurst also expressed concern about his favorite provisions - those relating to administrative departments. Since there is no coordinating body for the report to supervise elections. If the report does not pass, Bathurst says student advisory committees now will lose their right to be part of the faculty, he said. "Where does that leave us?"

IF STUDENTS and faculty are seen in some sort of adversary situation," he said, "it's unfortunate."

"I think there's been a lot of misunderstanding."

"Everyone started out on good hopes, bargaining in good faith. With the Massey Report, the feeling was, 'if there are differences of opinion, let's work them out.' But there have been massive attacks on us. We've felt like no one is listening."

"We're not interested in power grabbing and getting a majority. We simply want to have a chance to be heard. If we can't be heard, and it's going to take more than one kid."

"After the disappointments, he said, "as disillusioned as we are, I still hope the Senate will approve it (the Taylor report)."

If it's passed, "we will have gained, because through action and not just words, there will be a University council."

And if it doesn't pass: "That depends on the Senate. If it goes back to another committee, we'll try to make known our objections to parts we think are ambiguous. We'll try to work on a fourth document."