

March 19, 1969

FACT SHEET ON SENATE ACTION

The focus of the controversy between the Student Senate and the Loras College administration is failure of communication: channels through which members of the community raise questions and receive answers are not clearly defined and do not operate efficiently.

The boycott of classes planned for Friday and the rally scheduled for the Rock Bowl Friday noon are intended to demonstrate to the administration that a significant number of Lorasmen are dissatisfied with decision-making policies and procedures.

Administrators have pointed out that they cannot be sure what percentage of the student body supports the requests of the Senate. Friday's activities are opportunities for Lorasmen to evidence their support of their government.

The following issues have been raised by the Senate and unsatisfactorily dealt with by the administration:

1. Athletic Department's hair policy

After student inquiries were brought to his attention, President Driscoll appointed a committee to study the Athletic Department's policy. The committee recommended that the policy be changed and gave reasons for their recommendation. It was ignored by the President, however, who upheld the policy as it now stands.

2. Parietal hours

The Student Senate President and Chairman of the Welfare committee requested to go before the Administrative Council to present the Senat's request for parietal hours. Hall deans had been contacted by the Senate, and some of them favored the proposal. The Administrative Council advised the Hall deans that parietal hours were not acceptable. The Council would permit parietal hours in dormitories on three occasions IF Clarke and the University of Dubuque do the same. The Administrative Council did not allow the senate to present the student position on parietal hours.

3. Freshman hours, sign-in, roomcheck, cars

The decision on changes concerning dormitory life supposedly was made two weeks ago, and given to the Dean of Students by the President. But when contacted about the decision, the Dean of Students said the President had not made a decision. Changes in freshman hours were announced Wednesday.

4. The Officers of the Senate are gravely concerned with what they take to be unsound fiscal policies of the administration--extravagant or at best unnecessary spending. Increases in cost have not been adequately explained to the students--those who are providing much of the money to cover them. Some questions on this point are:

- a) Are the expenditures of the office of security commesurate with the benefits gained?
- b) Why are department chairmen not informed of their budgets?
- c) Why is only one secretary available to the forty faculty members in St. Joe's while secretaries abound in other offices?
- d) Who sets the priorities for campus improvement projects and what criteria are followed?
- e) Do administrative office furnishings need to be extravagant?

It is the feeling of the Executive Officers of the Senate that the administration

1. is not inclined to make decisions;
2. is not decided who among the College's administrators should make decisions;
3. is not inclined to provide thorough, prompt replies to requests and proposals made by the Senate.

The Senate's frustration with the administration's procrastination peaked early this week. Nearly every day for the three weeks preceding the Student Senate meeting Tuesday, some member of the Senate checked with the President or Dean of Men to learn if decisions had been made; each time, there were no results. Within 30 minutes Tuesday, the President of the Senate received conflicting reports from the President and the Dean of Students concerning the state of the administration's action on many Senate proposals. A two and one-half

hour meeting with the President and the Dean of Students Tuesday afternoon failed to produce positive results. Tuesday night the Executive Officers took their dissatisfaction to the Senate.

Action is sought on Senate resolutions; answers are sought to questions of expenditure and priorities. The Senate turns to the students for support as it approaches a meeting with the Board of Regents.