

History and Purpose of University Council

In April 1963 the University administration and the Faculty Senate jointly agreed to form University Council. The *Almanac*, then as now the University's publication of record, announced the establishment of University Council and summarized its purpose, saying it was "designed to eliminate the present duplication of faculty-administrative committees and to provide a more effective means for the faculty to participate in policy discussions." University Council as we know it today, however, dates to March 1969, when the faculty and administration voted to amend Council bylaws to provide for student representation. During the course of the 2008-09 academic year, we shall arrive at the 40th anniversary of that decision.

University Council is a deliberative and broadly representative body, which serves an advisory role to the President, Provost, and senior administration of the University. The purpose of University Council is best described in its Bylaws, which state that Council "exists to consider the activities of the University in all its phases, with particular attention to the educational objectives of the University and those matters that affect the common interests of faculty, staff and students." University Council has fulfilled that role capably, advising no fewer than six University presidents over the past forty-five years. Let us commit ourselves to continuing to fulfill that role for the coming year and for the foreseeable future.