

PROPOSAL PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT STRAND FOR  
SENATE ACTION

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Senate is closed to students in three ways: first, we are allowed only three student representatives out of thirty-seven members which makes our influence on decisions affecting our lives illusory; second, the right to be physically present and to express our feelings during debates has been taken from us; third, the first meeting of Senate to debate serious long-range proposals on Admissions, academic planning and Conway's proposals for an open university is to be held without opportunity for prior debate or even information by either students or faculty outside Senate (despite President Strand's public statement to Senate that his blueprint would be 'widely available' to students and faculty) or at a time when either students or faculty have time away from exams and essays to make their opinions known.

At the same time, Rob Walsh and Milten Maclaren, without even consulting either the student body or faculty or their own executives, are having a press conference announcing that a referendum will be held within the next seventy-two hours on new discipline procedures designed to facilitate expulsion of students or faculty who in the opinion of four 'judges' (and ultimately the president who can make any decision he wants regardless even of the 'court's' decision) demonstrate 'disruptively'.

At the mall meeting today there appeared to be general agreement that the Administration had purposely "created" the issue around physical openness to cloud the real issues (the ramming of the academic planning and admissions proposals through Senate during exams) and to try to provoke students into defending their basic rights - which would then provide the rationale for introducing repressive disciplinary measures. We do not intend to be intimidated into surrendering to an arbitrary authority which seeks to prevent any real, effective influence exercised by students over university decisions. On the other hand, we wish to call the Senate's bluff. If they are serious about reaching decisions in the open and respecting the opinions and decisions of the student body and faculty, they will consider the following two proposals as the first items on the Senate agenda. The effect of those proposals is to allow tonight's meeting to continue at a time when students and faculty are least able to indicate their feelings about openness and the substance of the Strand, Ellis and Conway proposals. However, we demand that no decision be made on the three proposals until the three conditions of openness can be reasonably met.

1. that final votes on the Academic Planning, Admissions and "open university" motions be made at an open Senate meeting at the beginning of the next semester, thus allowing the student body and faculty to examine the documents, formulate their opinions and attend the meeting without the pressure of exams and essays.
2. that Senate indicate its willingness to be bound by a referendum vote on the question of a parity Senate (half students and half faculty, elected according to their own procedures) conducted among students and faculty either singly or jointly; that if such a referendum passed, that Senate would agree to ratify decisions made by an interim parallel Senate set up as an elected parity body before the University act is formally changed.