INSTITUTE COMMITTEE
By R. H. Ranger

Colleges and universities throughout the country have all their student governments, but it is doubtful if there is any place which has one that reaches the efficiency of the Institute Committee here. The Institute Committee started with the class of 1893 as a body capable of being turned suggestion. With the year 1907-1908 largely through the influence of Harry William Hoole 1908 who was then editor-in-chief of "The Tech" the committee was reorganized and energized with results that are common to us all. It was then brought about that the heads of all the important activities were placed on the Institute Committee. Last year saw the latest development of the Institute Committee by the direct vote of all the activities at the Institute to support the point system in particular and in general all regulations proposed by the Institute Committee.

The main institution now enforced by the Institute Committee is that of the Point System. This system has proved its usefulness in bringing out a large number of men for activities and thus giving the benefit of the same to a large number and preventing over indulgence by a few to a neglect of their studies. There are now enrolled in activities more than one third of the student body.

The latest work of the Committee has been the organization of the Finance Commission. This Commission receives financial reports from all the activities each month and sees to it that the name of the Institute is not marred by financial weakness of its activities.

With the creation of the Union many new opportunities presented themselves for energetic work on the part of the committee. This is carried on through the sub-committee of the Institute Committee, the Union Committee.

As it now stands the Institute Committee can be compared to the organization of the parliament in England. There is no direct written constitution authorizing all the powers of the Committee; it is merely by the common sense of its own actions that it is respected and that its power continues. As it is now made up in the Institute Committee has the benefit of those best informed of Institute work. This is brought about by the selection of representatives to the committee of the heads of the activities among which may be mentioned Tech Shows, The Tech, Technique, Musical Clubs, Tech Christian Association, and the engineering societies.

The committee has so far filled a very definite purpose and there is every aspect of its continuing to do so in the way of looking out for the best interests of the students in their relations to each other, the Institute and the Faculty.

SOME INTERESTING FIGURES

Higher education is self-supporting only under very exceptional conditions. When it is made so there must be either inadequate or underpaid instruction, or the tax upon the students must be excessive. No modern state can afford to have higher education restricted to those who can bear its cost, or to let it depend upon the accidents of private generosity. The extent to which students in different parts of the country pay for their education in engineering branches has been recently investigated on behalf of the University of Nebraska, with the following results:—The figures refer to except laboratory charges for four courses.

- New York, $725
- Univ. of Nebraska, $34
- Univ. of Kansas, $50
- Univ. of Colorado, $65
- Univ. of Illinois, $110
- Univ. of Missouri, $120
- Univ. of Wisconsin, $140
- Univ. of Michigan, $140
- Yale University, $214
- Cornell University, $216
- Harvard University, $276
- Mt. I.D., $1000

The students of the Institute contributed towards the income in 1909-10 more than $335,000, or nearly 60% of the total income.

Scholarship funds at the Institute now amount to more than $334,000 besides the state scholarships and the Edward Austin fund of $375,000, which is largely employed for this purpose. These represent the admirable generosity of private givers to needy students, but to every student who receives a full scholarship the Institute must make an additional contribution nearly as large as the scholarship. The education of the student at the Institute for the four year course costs about $1,900. Of this amount the student pays about $1,000, the state about $600, the United States about $40, while the remaining $800 represents present or past generosity of friends of the school. If the state grant is increased to the extent desired it will still represent a contribution of only about one-sixth of the total cost.

Additional free scholarships would help the students but increase the burden on the school.

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