RULES AND REGULATIONS

Rules and regulations are obviously needed in the proper administration of the various offices of student activity. However, while the lack of necessary regulations may lead to an undesirable situation, the same result may also be arrived at from an excess of restrictions.

A large number of regulations can only be tolerated if it can be proved that they fulfill a definite and vital importance in the over-all administration of student activities. Too many regulations can easily stifle all initiative and group spirit. Red tape is quite comparable to a pit of quicksand—initiative and progress are quickly entombed by it.

The Walker Memorial Committee has, over the years, accumulated regulatory powers over a considerable segment of student life. This accumulation of power has also seen the growth of rules and regulations. Yet the time has come for the Walker Memorial Committee to return to a "Bluebook," a half-inch thick, 8½" x 11" notebook, contain the sum total of these laws.

The question which arises is not of the relative "goodness" or "badness" of these rules, but rather of their number and content. So far as possible an incoming graduating senior of Harvard Law School might set himself up as a specialist in Walker Memorial Committee regulations, and thereby make himself a tidy sum catering to the undergraduates.

It would then seem that every effort should be made at the present time to simplify regulations, rather than add to the "Bluebook." One of the demands which must be met if proper administration is to be possible is the desire for a less formal, more democratic administration. Such an administration would be necessary should models of brevity and clarity.

The logical place for a start is with the Points System which is of major importance in the consideration of student activities. The Points System is, in fact, the number of responsibilities one may accept, and, as such, demand as necessary should be models of brevity and clarity.

The idea of a points system is good, but excess operation has shown the mechanics to be poor. The greatest obstacle is in the determination of the number of points to be awarded for various positions. An attempt to make a carry-over between two years would be insufficient, as the importance of the activity and the amount of work required by an executive—obviously the two factors do not always go hand-in-hand.

The Institute Committee has differentiated between activities by an "A" and "B" classification. A regulation, preventing an individual from being the head of two Class A activities would be the most simple solution.

Here is an excellent situation for instituting a change to simple, efficient rules.