Inscornni 'esl' Inscomm President Calls For General Referendum

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1953

The Tech

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At the Institute Committee meeting of January 7, the Student Government proposed several changes in our Undergraduate Association constitution. Those motions were defeated by a small margin. Therefore, a group of members passed out petitions to have the motion regarding the Institute Committee Chairman brought before the whole student body. The Undergraduate Association constitution has specific rulings on referenda contained in Article IV, Sections 3 and 4 which are as follows:

"Section 3—All acts and decisions of the Institute Committee shall be considered to be the acts and decisions of this association except that on petitions presented in writing by two hundred (200) students, within fifteen (15) school days of the enactment of such acts and decisions by the Institute Committee, the question shall be referred to the Association as provided in Section 4.

"Section 4—On receipt of a petition presented in accordance with Section 3, the President of the Institute Committee shall issue a call for a general vote on the matter in question. Ammunition of any act or decision of the Institute Committee shall require a two-thirds vote of the members of the Undergraduate Association.

At present the President of the Senior Class is elected by seniors and is the only member of the Institute Committee. The new proposal would separate these two functions, and the entire undergraduate body would elect the Chairman of the Institute Committee. The proposal reads as follows:

"Moved: That the President of the student body should be duly elected by the entire Undergraduate Association.

And further that the preceding motion take effect in February, 1953.

"In order to clarify the proposed motion, it was suggested that the President of the Student Government would elect the Chairperson of the Institute Committee. The proposal would separate these two functions, and the entire undergraduate body would elect the Chairman of the Institute Committee. As this is a motion of importance to all of us, I would like to explain how this came about, the purpose of the motion, and some of the main arguments for and against it.

"This has become a controversial issue. Two of the arguments put forth by its supporters are:

1. The argument has been that Institute Committees are representative and students know little of what goes on there. By general election of Institute Committee chairmen, students would be more cognizant of the committee and who is in their student body.

2. A general election is more democratic—all students should have a voice in electing the person who is Chairman of the Student Government.

"The opponents of this motion believe:

1. Our present system is equitable and works smoothly. Each class elects three members of the Institute Committee with equal voting privileges. The Chairman, although the "executive head" has no more power within the committee than any other member.

2. The proposed motion would result in many students voting for candidates they do not know. This could result in the formation of a "student group" within the university and have certain decisions made entirely by that group without the approval of the entire student body.

"I would be glad to try and answer any questions you may have about this motion.

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AERONAUTICAL

ELECTRICAL

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METALLURGICAL

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ENGINEERING

H/AEROPLANE, STAGING, ZEPPELIN, AIRCRAFT, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONICS, MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS, MECHANICAL, INDUSTRIAL, METALLURGICAL, ELECTRICAL, ENGINEERING.

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