

# Court approves dramatic reforms

By KEVIN WHITE  
Staff Writer

The Patterson Court Council this week passed two self-selection reform proposals in a first step toward a dramatic reorganization of Davidson's social structure.

Greg Anders' proposal, giving the national fraternities on Patterson Court the right to issue formal written bids, was passed in a controversial vote Sunday night.

The vote was twelve "yes", seven "no" and one abstention with SAE, Phi Delt, KA, Rusk and ETC issuing two votes each in favor, F&M, Emanon and ATO unanimously against.

PAX split their vote, one in favor and one against while PIKA voted one "yes" and abstained in their second vote.

PCC Wednesday night also passed a proposal submitted by Bruce Brown and Tim Wilkins of F&M which deals specifically with reform of the self-selection system applicable only to the eating houses.

Those two proposals will be sent to

the sub-committee on Campus and Religious Life for further action.

In other actions, three proposals, including a computerization system, a combination bid/self-selection system applicable to all houses, and a lottery system of self-selection, were soundly defeated by the Council.

The Anders' proposal, in its final amended version, establishes a separate bid system applicable only to national fraternities on the Court.

Specifically, social functions of all houses would be open throughout fall term. During the second week of winter term, students would choose in which system they would like to participate, either bid or self-select.

This coincides with the issuance of Fiji bids and would allow future Fiji pledges the option of self-selection.

Formal rush by each fraternity would then commence culminating in bids being delivered sometime before the self-selection process.

Freshmen who entered the bid system but failed to win a bid would then fall behind the self-select people in choosing an eating house. Any

spaces in national fraternities not filled by bids will then be filled through the normal self-selection process.

To guarantee full use of all facilities and to help alleviate overcrowding, each house must specify a minimum of freshmen to be taken in before the end of fall term.

F&M's proposal for self-selection would keep it very similar to the way it functions now.

The number of people in early random now would be limited to a maximum of five. To avoid last minute encouragement or harassment, non-position individuals would sit at each house's table to put the student's name on the final sign-up sheet. House members could remain in Love Auditorium for further questions or problems.

Immediate controversy engulfed the pro-Anders proposal vote. Russ Martin, Treasurer of Emanon, typified the opinion of the houses opposed: "The vote of 12 to 7 with one abstention is not representative of the entire Patterson Court at all. It's

simply a poll of twenty people."

The controversy revolved around three questionable "yes" votes, two by ETC and one by PAX.

These houses charged that their representatives at the meeting did not express the majority opinion of that house. The Council decided that it would allow each house to submit to the Council a position paper, expressing the majority will of that house.

These papers, along with one summary pro-position and one summary con-position, would be sent with the proposal to the sub-committee for further evaluation. The vote remained 12-7-1.

The deadline for action for the sub-committee of the Council on Campus and Religious Life is October 1977. One member expressed little hope for actions before the end of this academic year.

Kathryn Bridges, PCC President, felt that all parties can be represented. "I hope anyone unhappy with the Anders' proposal will be pleased that dissenting opinions will also go before the sub-committee.

"The court is split, and all opinion will be fairly represented. The issue is not dead and I encourage any student with other proposals to submit them to the PCC for consideration."

## The Davidsonian

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### Convocation boycott in protest

## Spencer rescinds job offer from Jewish Professor

By CATHERINE LANDIS  
Editor  
and  
KARL GOODHOUSE  
Guest Writer

A prospective faculty member's invitation to join the faculty was rescinded by College President Samuel R. Spencer, Jr., because the professor, a member of the Jewish religion, indicated his objections to the college's policy of hiring based on such non-academic standards as Christian commitment.

#### Protest boycott

In response, students and faculty plan to boycott Friday's Convocation exercises.

After reviewing 190 applications the political science department invited two candidates to Davidson to be interviewed by both students and faculty. The department unanimously chose Dr. Ronald Linden, a professor from Swarthmore College, and recommended Linden to Spencer who then interviewed him.

#### Informed of tenure policy

Spencer informed Linden about the Christian tenure policy in the By-Laws of the College Constitution. Linden had not previously been aware of the policy before his interview with Spencer.

#### Linden offered job

Spencer offered Linden the job because, as what Dr. Proctor, chairman of the political science department,

"His credentials were quite impressive. He has a Ph.D. from Princeton University. His training was suited for the courses we needed for him to teach, specifically international and Soviet policy."

Proctor added, "He seems to have the sort of personality which would have made him a productive teacher and an excellent scholar."

Spencer's letter included a paragraph expressing his concern as to whether or not Linden would be willing to teach at a school with a strong Christian commitment. He wrote that Linden should not accept the job unless he genuinely wished to uphold and

SEE EDITORIAL  
PAGE 4

support college policy. This wording appears in all letters from the college offering employment.

#### Job offer accepted

Linden accepted the job offer. At the same time he turned down job offers at other schools. In his letter to Spencer, however, he stated his objections to the college's hiring and firing policies.

Spencer interpreted the objection as a negotiation to the

initial acceptance in the first of Linden's letters. According to the Constitutional By-Laws, "The President shall be responsible to the Trustees for being certain that each person employed as a member of faculty and staff, at the time of his or her appointment, is fully aware of and supports the purpose of the college as set forth in the Davidson College Constitution, and it prepared conscientiously to uphold and seek to increase its effectiveness as a church-related college."

#### "No contract reached"

Because of Linden's response Spencer was unsure of Linden's support of the Constitution. He conferred with Trustee and lawyer Larry Daggrenhart who ruled that no contract had been reached. Daggrenhart then advised Spencer to withdraw his offer to Linden.

#### Job offer withdrawn

Spencer informed Proctor of his decision after speaking to Daggrenhart, but before sending the withdrawal to Linden.

The political science department will now go back to the original applications and invite the next qualified candidate to Davidson for an interview.

FOCUS this week on  
College Union



COLLEGE PRESIDENT SAMUEL R. SPENCER JR., has rescinded the job offer of a Jewish professor who expressed his doubts of the Christian tenure policy.

## Study in India offered

Director of South Asian Studies Tonia K. Devon announced Wednesday that St. Stephens College in India is offering a scholarship to a Davidson student for study during the first two terms of the coming academic year.

St. Stephens is the institution where Jesse Bhattal, currently a foreign student at Davidson, received his degree.

"In addition to having an excellent academic reputation and intellectual tradition, St. Stephens offers superb recreation, housing and eating facilities on campus," Devon said. "It is located in the beautiful and culturally fascinating city of Delhi, the capitol of

India.

"Language is not a barrier to study there since the classes are held in English and the students all speak English in addition to their regional languages," she explained.

Fields of study available to students will be economics, history, English, math, chemistry, physics and philosophy. Arrangements will be made for transfer of credit in a manner similar to the procedure for transfer of summer school credits.

Application forms may be obtained from the Office of International Education. The student will pay transportation costs for the trip to India.

# Christian tenure inconsistent with College's ideals

Davidson's Christian Commitment originally sought to preserve priceless truths born in ages past. The reasoning was that to inculcate good old Judeo-Christian virtues was to invest in our nation's moral and spiritual future. Given the events of the past week, however, the time for reconsideration has come. We must now examine carefully the implications of the Christian Tenure requirement both from the standpoint of academic excellence and moral propriety, for on both counts it remains an anachronistic relic—an abysmal failure.

First, consider the argument that our institution has been charged with the grave and delicate responsibility for teaching individuals the value of the "moral" life. Obviously, the desire to promote Truth and Beauty is unimpeachable—no one in their right mind would consider thumbing his (or her) nose at Goodness. On the other hand, it is reasonable to ask whether or not the exclusion of alternative religious opinions, if only embedded deeply within the psyche of the pedagogue, can possibly achieve that commitment. The assertion that others who hold divergent religious beliefs cannot teach virtue is absurd. Their minds are not polluted with phillistinism; their bodies have not been Satanized by an alternative ethical theory. Instead, we must admit to the possibility that human virtue may have seemed beyond the borders of Christian faith—perhaps some of it has managed to trickle down to lesser dogmas.

Secondly, at Davidson, it is questionable whether any concerted religious indoctrination takes place outside the religion department. The fact that other faiths are also taught within that department serves cogent notice to the fact of their tenability. If we must teach *only* Christian dogma then we have a clear duty to dispense with the religion department.

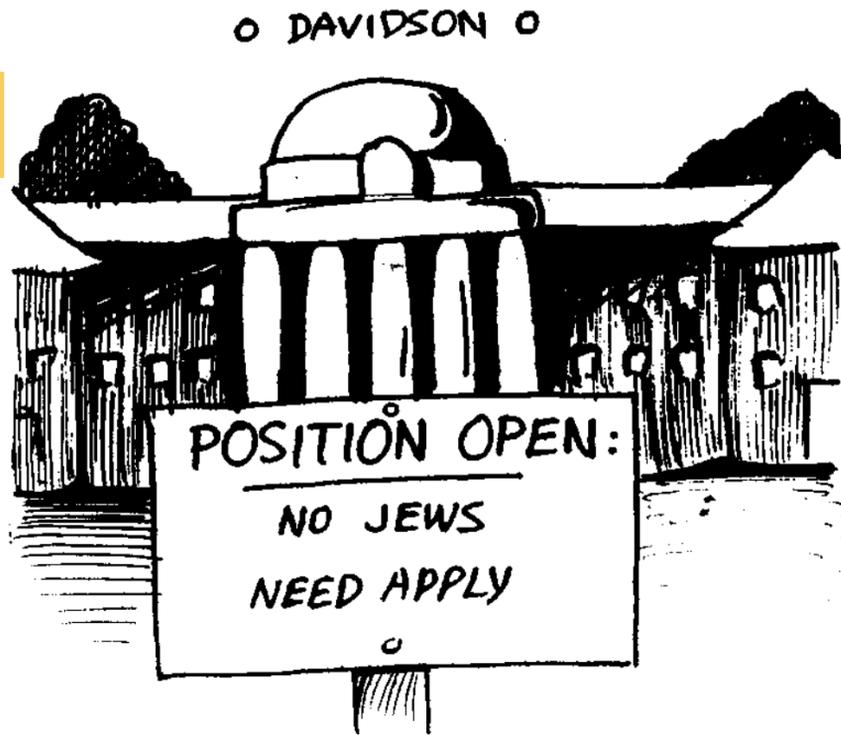
Finally, the question of consistency arises. In the past, non-Christian teachers have been hired presumably because they are superlative professors. Yet suddenly, the presence of another faith (Judaism) becomes grounds for exclusion. From a moral point of view, this is contemptible. From a legal point of view, controversial. In essence, a Jewish teacher was offered a contract on the condition that he deny his faith and integrity. All this at a school with a Christian commitment.

So now we have grounds for action; a time for commitment. For any individual who takes seriously our Statement of Purpose is out of the question. Instead, we must be bold enough to affirm the role of virtue. And that, in the truest Agapistic sense, means to discard the Christian Tenure requirement. It is not the time for witch hunts; not the time to carry out personal vendettas against persons in the administration; not a time for indulging in Inquisition. Instead, it is the time for the members of the college community to band together in a concerted display of Christian conscience. For only by so doing can we hope to preserve our priceless past without facing a worthless future.

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### Opinion

## Council ignored



By MARK RABIL  
Guest Columnist

On April 1, Dr. Spencer sent a memorandum to the Council on Campus Life stating that their protest of a possible golf course is beyond "the scope of responsibility of the Council." "I believe," says Dr. Spencer, "that the original design of the Council envisioned its responsibility to be more in the area with which the Dean of Students would normally deal. It is the Dean of the Faculty who has the responsibility to evaluate the needs and requests of all departments on a continuing basis and to make recommendations as to which of them should be approved."

Article IX, Section 3.b. of the College Constitution states, "The Council is advisory to the President in all matters affecting the quality of campus life."

The group of students who came to the Council on Campus Life protested a golf course because they felt there are other aspects of campus life which need to be improved first, such as the infirmary and Psychological Guidance. Dr. Spencer's point that the solicitation of money for a golf course would not take away money from the Infirmary, for example, is well taken in that the same person would probably not donate to both causes. But who has begun plans for the improvement of the Infirmary? Why is a golf course thought about while the infirmary is not considered?

The Council protested the beginning of the plans for a golf course or practice area because these plans were begun and approved *before* plans for the Infirmary or psychological guidance were even proposed. We

would have no objections to plans for a golf course if plans for our other needs were in the making. Should we accept, for example, \$200,000 for the construction and maintenance of a three hole golf course? Of course. Should we accept \$200,000 for the improvement of the infirmary? Of course—but first we have to make it known that the infirmary needs to be improved just as we are beginning to make it known that it would be nice to have a golf course.

Dr. Spencer states in his memo that the proper channels for beginning the plans for a golf course were followed in that the Dean of the Faculty evaluated and approved "the modest outlay required for the practice area as justified in comparison with expenditures of a similar level which he has approved for other departments." What happens when students and faculty disagree with an administrative decision which has been made which they feel affects the "quality of campus life"? According to the Constitution, they come to the Council on Campus Life which then advises the President if they feel it necessary.

This is exactly what happened. A group of students disagreed with the beginning of the plans for a golf course when no plans had been made for the improvement of the infirmary or psychological guidance. The Council agreed with these students and so advised the President. Dr. Spencer replied that it is not within the "scope of responsibility of the Council" to advise him in this area.

Davidson's governance system, i.e. the organization of the SGA, the faculty, the advisory councils, the president, and the trustees, can only function if it is used properly. It does not appear that the advisory council on Campus Life is being used to its fullest advantage.

Before the governance system itself is evaluated next year there needs to be an evaluation of how the new governance system is being used now. If the system is not being used according to the guidelines set forth by the College Constitution how can it honestly be evaluated when the time comes?