
Pro Rege

Volume 1 | Number 2

Article 6

December 1972

Student Government Provisional

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Recommended Citation

Koldenhoven, James (1972) "Student Government Provisional," *Pro Rege*:

Vol. 1: No. 2, 20.

Available at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol1/iss2/6

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STUDENT

GOVERNMENT

PROVISIONAL



The Dordt student government collapsed last spring under the weight of student body apathy and failure of the government to know its own purpose. With insufficient candidates for the election, the Dean of Students called the Council defunct and, with the help of the "lame-duck Council" and the Student Personnel Committee, began plans for a provisional government in the fall.

The pro tem government, now called the Student Forum, is composed of twenty-two members. These students, elected representatively from the four classes, meet on alternate weeks for the purpose of discussing relevant campus issues and making recommendations for action to standing committees.

Almost all standing committees at Dordt are made up of both faculty and student members. Students who are both on standing committees and in the Student Forum are in an excellent position to relate and report the efforts going on in the faculty-student committees to the Student Forum. The Dean of Students reports that "the students involved take their responsibilities seriously and are generally pleased with the present arrangement."

Issues discussed by members of the Forum during the first semester include, the place and function of chapel, the value of the "dean's list," the smoking rule, dormitory judiciary, library hours, Student Union policies, and campus art.

A member of the Student Forum reported that the student government has more time this year for important things. "Last year," she noted, "the Council spent valuable time with making arrangements for events and with shuffling money in the Council's budget."

It is possible, according to the Dean of Students, that the present provisional government will be ratified by the students if they think it is the best form of government. The faculty, however, makes the final decision on all major changes in college policy, including the matter of student government. One of the contingencies still to be considered before a definite form of student government can be enacted is the matter of authority, what is a Biblical understanding of authority, how it is derived, and how it is to be exercised. The faculty Purposes Committee plans to debate the question during the second semester.