

COGS protests voting rules

At its final fall term meeting, the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) voted unanimously in favor of a statement protesting the voting restrictions placed on graduate student representatives in the Academic Council and its committees. The restrictions are provided in the Academic Council's recently approved report on student participation in academic governance.

That report, the COGS statement says, "does not differentiate between undergraduate and graduate students in its application of voting restrictions; and while those restrictions are unwarranted and unnecessary for undergraduates, they are even more objectionable when applied to graduate students.

"At this University, graduate students perform a substantial portion of both the teaching and research functions generally conceived to be faculty activities," the statement continues. "Accordingly, as graduate students perform the professional duties of the faculty, they should be entitled through their representatives to full voice in the academic governance."

COGS nevertheless will continue to send representatives to the Council and its committees, and will probably implement the student participation report if it is not further weakened in the Academic Senate this month, the statement says.

"But if the voting restrictions in the (report) are interpreted and imposed to systematically deprive graduate students of meaningful voice in academic governance, we will reconsider our participation in favor of working

through other channels."

PASSAGE OF the statement followed a discussion which reflected these concerns:

- Of one student that the student voice is a thorn in Council members' sides; (Replied Peter Flynn, president of COGS: "You're not a thorn; the thorn is the vote.")

- Of the same student, that it is important to differentiate between graduate and undergraduate students; graduate students are professionals.

- Of another student, on the importance of keeping whatever input possible in the Council, with the powers of persuasion if not of voting. (Response from Flynn: "Discussions in the Academic Council are not a persuasion thing. People have predispositions. So the meaningful voice is in the tally.")

IN OTHER business, COGS heard a report from its finance committee, which is charged with making recommendations to the council regarding use of its tax revenues. The committee suggested a loan program for graduate students, using initially 30 per cent of the revenues, with a maximum loan of \$100 per student. Also recommended was a graduate student referendum during spring term registration to poll students for suggestions on using the money.

If COGS should dissolve at any time, the finance committee recommended that a plan be developed so that any COGS revenues be redirected to "the people who gave it," for example

through scholarships, rather than being absorbed by the University's general fund.

MEANWHILE, the Student - Faculty Judiciary denied a request for a hearing on the constitutionality of the COGS tax on graduate students.

The request was made by Richard Trilling, a graduate research assistant in physics who charged that the COGS tax of 50 cents per graduate student per term would violate four sections of the Academic Freedom Report.

The judiciary denied the request because of a question of jurisdiction, based mainly on the lack of graduate student representation on the judiciary, according to Ruth Renaud, director of judicial programs.

While graduate students have been involved in cases brought before the body, the judiciary has never heard charges against graduate students or brought by graduate students, Miss Renaud said.

The judiciary intends to write an opinion expressing concern about the lack of an alternative body for graduate students, she said.

That fuzzy area of jurisdiction should be clarified with passage of the document on graduate student rights and responsibilities, which was cleared by a conference committee in December.

The document, which should be available through the office of Advanced Graduate Studies early this term, must now be considered by the Academic Council and Senate, and the Board of Trustees.

- BEVERLY TWITCHELL



Tuesday, Jan. 5 - 11:30 a.m. (AM): Debut of "Down to the Sea," today featuring a historic survey of oceanography with Jacques Cousteau.

Wednesday, Jan. 6 - 1 p.m. (AM): Justice in America," with John Molloy, associate professor of social science, 8 p.m. (FM): "The Dance of Death" is presented on BBC World Theatre.

Thursday, Jan. 7 - 11:30 p.m. (AM): A special commentary from Washington on the 92nd Congress. 7:30 p.m. (FM): Critics Martin Bookspan, Edward Downes and Irving Kolodin comment on new recordings.

Friday, Jan. 8 - 10:30 a.m. (AM): "The Eisenhower Years: Prologue,"

Saturday, Jan. 9 - 1:30 p.m. (AM): "A Place on Earth" is the first in a new series devoted to ecology.

Sunday, Jan. 10 - 4 p.m. (AM-FM) "Business Forecast: 1971" features a discussion of prospects for the new year by U. of Chicago faculty and Chicago executive.



Tuesday, Jan. 5 - 7 p.m.: "Until I Die" is a documentary on the work of Elizabeth Kubler Ross and her seminars in the treatment of terminal hospital patients.

Wednesday, Jan. 6 - 7 p.m.: "Music from Michigan State" features Barbara Nissman.

Friday, Jan. 8 - 7 p.m.: "Assignment 10" looks at the controversial plan to build dams, watersheds and reservoirs on the Grand River Basin.