

# *Campus Community*

by President A. B. Martin

One of the distinctive marks of the true university is that it is a unique community. It brings together scholars and students in the common quest of learning. Besides this, the Christian university claims to be a fellowship of faith and a way of living. In this case, the campus is governed not only by principles of democracy but also in conformity with Christian standards of life. Ottawa University professes to be a community dedicated to these high purposes.

Students, faculty, administrative members, and trustees are all members of this distinctive community. But if it is to be a community in more than name, then there must be a sense of responsibility on the part of all concerned to assist in carrying out the purposes and goals of the college community.

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# Campus Community

## Administrative Responsibility

Legally the trustees are responsible for the government and general welfare of the college. Actually, they usually concern themselves with finances and investment policies, with buildings and their maintenance. They also select the President of the college and delegate to him and through him to administrative officers and to the faculty, the general responsibility for the program of the college. The faculty have delegated to them the responsibility of maintaining the structure and standards of excellence of academic studies. The faculty are responsible also for student behavior and discipline. Through them, and sharing with them the responsibility for student welfare, is the system of student participation which we call student government.

## Principle of Student Government

Student government in Ottawa University is based upon the principle that life in the campus community is a part of the learning process. The campus is a laboratory for the practice of democracy and self-government. Students learn to live together and to accept common responsibility for the welfare of the whole community. All students have the right to participate in this college government and to run for office subject only to scholastic standing. No discrimination is allowed because of race, sex, religion, or economic status.

## Student Government Agencies

The ultimate agency through which this self-government of the college community is integrated is the **Joint faculty-student administrative council**. This body acts as an upper house and final court of appeal in all matters of student concern.

Next to the joint administrative council is the **student council** which is democratically elected. The student council appoints the student manager who in turn makes appointments to the student administrative staff. The student council is the executive committee of the student body and reports to its constituency periodically. It has responsibility for the day to day conduct of student affairs.

All matters of student concern of a non-academic character are open to discussion and debate in the **student assembly** which is conducted on a strictly parliamentary basis. To be-

come law, a motion, though passed by the assembly, must be approved by the joint administrative council which acts as an upper house for this purpose.

## Special Feature of Student Government

A special feature of student government in Ottawa University is the system of joint or parallel committees. Each of the main functions of student government corresponds to the over-all purposes of the University. For each of these there is both a faculty committee and a student committee. For example, there are faculty committees for scholarship, social life, athletics, student affairs, and religious life. These are related to the corresponding student committees.

The two committees are supposed to meet jointly for exploring the total area for which they are responsible. Each then accepts responsibility for its proper part and does its separate work. They may meet at any time subsequently for consideration of special problems at the call of the joint chairmen. Joint responsibility insures both perspective and needed authority in student affairs.

## Student Government Responsibility

Student government has responsibility to maintain order, to supervise and coordinate all student enterprises of a non-academic nature, to pass rules or regulations for the wise conduct of the campus community, to prescribe penalties for willful violation of regulations, and to amend or otherwise alter its constitution within its proper sphere of control.

## Administrative Authority

As has already been indicated the administration of the college and the faculty have sole authority over academic matters and the general policies of the university. Areas of cooperation are recognized, however, by which students may have a voice even in academic proposals and in matters not strictly within the province of student government. It can be seen that student participation in Ottawa University is comprehensive in character and quite essential to the effective functioning of the university community.

Ed. Note—This is the third in a series of articles by Dr. Martin to acquaint the student with the program of the University.