

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Student Publications Advisory Committee came into being in June, 1934, when President Hotchkiss appointed members to the committee. This committee replaced the previous Board of Publications which had served the student publications for several years. The advisory committee was intended to provide a less bothersome method of supervising the publications. The Board of Publications was a rather large body, and whenever changes were deemed necessary, the entire board, which was composed of students and faculty members, had to appear. It was often difficult to hold meetings at which the entire board could attend. Current and pressing business was often postponed inadvertently. Realizing that a smaller and more compact body would function more effectively, several members of the publication board suggested that a new committee be established. Acting on this suggestion President Hotchkiss formed the advisory committee. This body was to cooperate with the student staffs of the various publications. It was given complete authority to exercise administrative supervision over the publications. It was to act independently of all divisional interests in matters relating to the general editorial policy, financial affairs, and staff appointments of the student publications.

Several faculty committees had been in charge of publication work before the Student Publications Committee was formed. The first of these guided the *Fulchrum*, the original magazine of the Institute, and later aided student staffs of the *Integral*, the college annual. This board cooperated with student members of these publications and received suggestions from officers of Sphinx honor literary society. Creation of the *Armour Engineer* resulted in the appointment of a separate advisory council which was to serve the college magazine. The *Integral*, which later became the *Cycle*, continued with the original advisory group. The establishment of the *Armour Tech News* in 1928 resulted in a third publication board. These three advisory groups continued until early in 1932 when the advisory

staffs of the *Engineer* and the *Tech News* were combined into one group known as the Board of Publications. Headed by Professor Walter Hendricks of the English Department, this group was required to determine the editorial policy of these two student organizations in accordance with the wishes of a promotional committee. This promotional committee capitalized upon the two publications and intended to obtain additional interest in *Armour* by using these organizations as advertising agencies. Several changes were wrought in the publications at this time. The advisory staff of the *Cycle* remained relatively free from jurisdiction, since the promotional committee saw less publicity value in the annual.

The promotional committee was dissolved after it had served for over a year. Shortly after it was discontinued, the advisory staff of the *Cycle* was combined with the Board of Publications. This merger affected the first combined group which had full charge over all student publications. However, this combination was to be short lived. On June 1, 1934, the *Armour Board of Publications* was discontinued and the Student Publications Advisory Committee was named in its place. In October of the following year the *Engineer* was removed from the control of the Committee, and placed under a managing board. The *Engineer* had expanded rapidly after it was reorganized in 1934, and it was thought that a managing board which would be able to devote its entire energies to the magazine would remove a portion of the large load that was carried by the Advisory Committee.

Although the Advisory Committee has been associated with student publication work for a relatively short time, it has performed a valuable service to the publications. Financial and editorial difficulties that occasionally burdened the student organs have been removed, while the advice of the selected and careful Committee members has materially benefited the publications that are guided by this group in innumerable ways.



Walter Hendricks

