

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - In a major change, Stanford trustees have voted unanimously to fill two current vacancies with faculty members from other academic institutions and to include four young graduates in a nine-man expansion of the board, University President Kenneth S. Pitzer reported Thursday (SEP. 18).

Students and faculty also will be invited to serve as voting members of most trustee committees, Pitzer told the Senate of the Academic Council at its first meeting of the new academic year.

The changes follow a five-month study by a trustee committee headed by John W. Gardner, a nationally prominent educator and Stanford alumnus. The study committee was appointed by Trustee President W. Parmer Fuller III in April. Its recommendations are believed to represent the most comprehensive revision in membership adopted in recent years by the governing board of any major private American university.

A 1935 graduate, Gardner gained national prominence as president of the Carnegie Corporation and as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. A Stanford trustee since 1968, he currently heads the Urban Coalition.

Stanford must seek court approval for a change in its Founding Grant to enlarge the board from 23 to 32 members. Those added will include the university president, ex-officio; four graduates, age 35 or under, elected by vote of alumni in their age group; and four older graduates, chosen in a similar fashion by their colleagues.

The changes are in keeping with recommendations made during the past year by the Stanford chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and by the Steering Committee of the Study of Education at Stanford (SES), a student-faculty group.

On recommendation of President Pitzer, the trustees early this year approved formation of a University Advisory Committee, composed of five board members, five faculty leaders, and five student leaders, with the president serving ex-officio as chairman.

During 1968-69, the trustees sharply increased invited attendance of students and faculty members at its committee meetings on a non-voting basis. This practice was initiated at least six years ago.

Students and faculty will be invited to serve with vote on the following trustee standing committees: academic affairs; buildings and grounds; finance; land development; and planning and development. In addition, faculty members will serve on two other committees, for investments and trustee nominations.

No more than two students and two faculty members, with the rank of assistant professor or higher, will serve on any committee. They will be recommended by the University president, following established procedures for campus consultation, and will be appointed by the trustee president, subject to confirmation by the full board.

Students will be invited to submit individual names for trustee nominees and discuss them with the committee.

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Stanford trustees 2-2-2

Current vacancies on the board stem from resignations by Dean Watkins, a Palo Alto electronics executive recently appointed a University of California regent, and E.W. Littlefield, president and general manager of Utah Construction and Mining Co.

The eight new alumni trustees will be elected by direct vote of the alumni. Two new members from each age group would be elected from each group soon after court approval of the change, serving staggered three and four-year terms.

Thereafter, one new member from each age group would be elected annually for a four-year, non-renewable term.

In 1954, the University obtained court approval for expansion of the board of trustees from 15 to 23 members.

Last October, the Stanford AAUP chapter recommended that "membership on the Board of Trustees should be more representative--professionally, politically, geographically, and in age distribution--of the composition of contemporary American society.

"While it would not be appropriate for Stanford faculty or students to be members of the Board...because this would blur the delineation of roles in University governance, it is important that persons engaged in academic functions at other institutions be made members.

"Faculty members (should) be appointed to serve on appropriate committees of the Board, particularly the committee on investments and the nominating committee."

In March, the SES Steering Committee recommended that students and faculty serve as members of trustee committees.

In a comprehensive report on University governance, it also recommended that the board seek greater diversification in membership.

"The average age of trustees now is 57 and should be lowered if a range of generational viewpoints is to be represented," the SES report said. "The board...should seek to increase the diversity of its membership with respect to such factors as age, occupation, cultural and racial background, and place of residence.

"This effort should give a high priority to adding members who are actively engaged in teaching and scholarship at other universities and colleges."

The SES report said giving students and faculty voting membership on trustee committees would "substantially enhance" informed participation in university governance at this level.

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