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CONVOCAION COMMENTS CONCERNING GOVERNANCE

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My comments this afternoon concern the status of the on-going governance discussions and Provost Conference on October 23.

In response to a call from the Senate, the Trustees sanctioned the formation of a discussion group to discuss issues of trustee and faculty roles and responsibilities in university governance. I wish to publicly express the appreciation of the Senate and faculty to the Board for its interest in proceeding with this initiative. These discussions have been frank and constructive. I believe it correct to report that all who have been involved are comfortable with the progress that has been made. Nonetheless, I also believe that we further anticipate that this is the first step in what should be a continuous process. As mentioned in the discussion up-dated and distributed this week via campus mail, the six members of this committee (known as G-6) met throughout the summer. Specific committee recommendations have been forwarded to the Executive Committee.

One purpose of the Conference is to set a context for the Board's discussion of the G-6 recommendations because the underlying issues are broad and complex. But an equally important purpose is to engage the entire University community in considering the importance of governance for developing and sustaining an engaged, academically and culturally enriched community. It is the Senate's belief that these attributes of University life are absolutely essential to our quest to improve the quality and reputation of the University.

of how well it is doing in safeguarding the governance process and sharing its responsibilities in appropriate ways. This is currently going on in the corporate community as serious questions are being asked about the roles and responsibilities of boards and senior executives. Clearly, in many publicly owned corporations,

Reflections of a G-6 Insider

Different governance issues—strategic planning, administrative searches, personnel evaluation, budgeting and fund-raising—will require different mechanisms and processes. The conference will explore some of them. It seems to me that where academic mission is concerned—arguably the governance issue of greatest interest to faculty—we already have a good mechanism in place that can facilitate broad-based conversation and collaborativ

Desired Results
From the Provost Conference

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