President Urged To Discontinue Job Corps Center

The Faculty Senate of Northern Michigan University has recommended that the University should not seek a renewal of the Job Corps contract for next year unless the present social problems are solved or the entire local Job Corps program is removed from Northern Michigan's campus.

The Faculty Senate made its recommendations in response to a request of Northern's president Dr. John X. Jamrich.

Dr. Jamrich said that future decisions concerning the Job Corps Center would be made on the basis of these reports. The Senate made it clear that they were making their recommendation on the basis of a "limited" perspective and that the perspective was "the effect of the Job Corps program on the faculty and regular students at Northern Michigan."

The Senate stated they had arrived at their conclusion by sampling faculty and student reaction to the local Job Corps program and "through hearings and personal communications." It further stated that it seemed appropriate to "categorize these reactions as they pertain to the University's academic activities or the social activities of faculty and students."

A general conclusion drawn by the Senate is that the "Job Corps involvement in the University's activities is minimal."

Faculty research involving the Job Corps "was apparently discouraged originally and is now limited to one project," the Senate said. The Senate reported that there was little exchange between Job Corps and University classes with a few University classes observing Job Corps classes and "very few" Job Corps enrollees attending University classes.

The Senate concluded that "it appears the Job Corps is quite isolated academically from the rest of the University and that the presence of Job Corps on campus is not essential to the University-level programs."

"The Job Corps has a very significant impact on the social activities, primarily of students," the Senate went on to say. It was noted that there are "advantages and disadvantages" to this, and that some of the faculty have invited Job Corps women into their homes and that some faculty members have accepted invitations to join the Job Corps at the Center in Casey Hall.

"These interactions," the Senate says, "have undoubtedly given the faculty a greater awareness and sympathy for the problems faced by the Job Corps enrollees."

It was noted by the Senate that since the Job Corps enrollees are considered as students on campus, they are able to take part in an array of social activities, "often to the mutual benefit of all students and in spite of the cultural gap between the regular students and Job Corps enrollees."

The Senate continued by saying that these contacts between the two student groups could prove valuable to the regular students in broadening "their awareness of the world and its problems."

The statement from the Senate is quick to point out that many of these advantages are outweighed by "unfortunate problems arising from the fact that regular students and Job Corps enrollees share the recreative activities of the University." One of the first of these, the Senate points out, is that many students are quick to point out that many of their extra-curricular activities and do not use such facilities as the University Center which was specifically designed for their use. Furthermore, the Senate says, student involvement in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities is a significant issue in total education. Finally it is stated by the Senate that "the complete withdrawal of Job Corps and guests from these facilities is the only realistic solution to an untenable situation."

In conclusion the Faculty Senate placed emphasis on the fact that the social problems arising from the presence of the Job Corps center are "due to the cultural background of the Job Corps enrollees and their guests, and not to their race or color."