

News of Science

Economic Status of Professors

A program for the improvement of the economic status of college professors and for the maintenance of high standards is outlined in the current [Spring 1958] issue of the *AAUP Bulletin*, official publication of the American Association of University Professors. The association proposes that the "absolute highest priority in the use of available funds be given to raising faculty salaries, with the goal of doubling the average level within 5 to 10 years." This recommendation is identical with the one made to "every board of trustees, every legislature, and all others responsible for academic budgets" by the President's Committee on Education Beyond the High School in its "Second Report to the President," July 1957.

The association also proposes that administrators and teachers rate their institutions' scales of minimum salaries by reference to a table containing minimum salaries in six grades, A through F. A grade of A will be given if the following minimum salaries have been attained: professors \$12,000, associate professors \$8750, assistant professors \$6750, and instructors \$5000. Minimum salaries by ranks for grade B are \$10,000, \$7750, \$6000, and \$4500. For grade C they are \$8750, \$6750, \$5250, and \$4000; for grade D, \$7500, \$6000, \$4750, and \$3750; for grade E, \$6250, \$5250, \$4250, and \$3500; and for grade F, \$5250, \$4500, \$3750, and \$3250.

The association makes this proposal in the belief that a graded salary scale will encourage the various sections of the public to increase their support of efforts to raise faculty salaries at institutions in which they are interested. A special grade of AA is included in the table as a goal for institutions which find their present salary schedules in grades A or B. Minimum salaries in this grade are \$14,000, \$10,000, \$7750, and \$6000 for the four academic ranks.

The table of minimum salaries, which the association proposes as a guide in this self-rating system, was determined after examination of the data in two reliable studies of academic salaries recently completed. One is the latest biennial salary report of the AAUP, which

is based upon the 1957-58 salaries reported by 39 selected institutions having higher than average academic salaries in recent years.

The other study, entitled "Higher Education Planning and Management Data, 1957-58," is based upon replies from 1146 colleges and universities. It was compiled under the direction of W. Robert Bokelman of the U.S. Office of Education and published by the U.S. Government Printing Office.

These studies, together with press releases on recent salary rises, show that current (1957-58) minimum scales of American institutions are found in all grades except AA, which is a 1960 target for present grade A and B scales. Some institutions may have low grades for their minimum salaries but would qualify for much better evaluations on other scores. Anticipating this disappointment, the association recommends the publication of supplementary information on average salaries, student-faculty ratios, and instructional expenses per student.

Colleges and universities are urged to adopt the following practices in the determination of faculty salaries: (i) the preparation and announcement of a salary schedule, (ii) provision for a meaningful annual audit and fiscal report on operations, and (iii) provision for faculty consultation on the budget, either by faculty representation on institutional budget committees or through a faculty budget committee created to advise with the appropriate officers and committees.

The association also proposes that long-range planning committees composed of faculty, or having faculty representation, be established in institutions now without them. These committees should deal with the critical problems associated with quality maintenance and with expansion. They would study such problems as the limit on the number of students to be enrolled, the staff and space requirements for the planned number of students, the budgetary requirements of planned salary increases and expansion of staff and facilities, the priorities to be established among competing needs, the extent to which the institution should continue to provide education at less than cost, and the means of aiding the superior but needy student.

A fifth proposal by the association is that state or regional conferences of professors be organized in areas where conditions justify them. Such conferences would have as their objectives the encouragement of long-range planning in all area institutions, the pooling of information concerning institutional plans, and the conserving of the educational dollar by encouraging and supporting the full use of existing institutions. These state or regional conferences could also serve a liaison function between faculties and state commissions or other planning groups in the area. They would be available to collect data on higher education in the region, as needed.

The chairman of the AAUP Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession is William A. Neiswanger, professor of economics at the University of Illinois.

Science Writing at Columbia

Columbia University's Advanced Science Writing Program will start next September on a scale enlarged over that originally announced [*Science* 127, 228 (31 Jan. 1958)]. This is possible because of a 3-year \$100,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The pilot financing was a 2-year, \$70,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The combined financial support provides for six to eight fellowships the first year and ten or more in each of the two following years. Within a month of the December announcement of the program, nearly 150 inquiries and applications were received by the Graduate School of Journalism.

The stipends have been set high; they will cover, in addition to university tuition and fees, up to approximately \$4400 travel and living expenses for the academic year. It is possible that there will be one or more of what might be called "corporate" fellowships, under which a publication or industrial organization will pay the tuition and fees and make its own salary arrangements with a qualified employee during his semester or year in the program.

The program will be kept as flexible as possible to meet the individual needs of the participants. In one case, for example, a writer might want to specialize in one phase of science, and thus would concentrate his studies in that area. Another, planning a career of "general assignment" science reporting, would take courses in several areas, either to get advanced training or to acquire knowledge in fields not studied in undergraduate days.

In general the program will include participation in regular or specially arranged science courses or seminars under Columbia's faculties of pure science,