May 29, 2001

Report of the Special Committee on the University Center

Minority View

The undersigned members of the Committee agree to the general sentiments and to many specifics of the Committee's report. We strongly support the purposes of the University Club as agreed upon by the Academic Senate, particularly the establishment of a center at which there can be frequent contact among faculty from different parts of the campus.

We wish to call the attention of the Senate to two points.

1. The statements on page 41 of the Call regarding the non-unanimity within the Committee regarding the choice of site are accurate. Precisely what the opinion of the Committee actually was is unclear, however, for despite repeated requests the committee was not allowed to consider alternative sites for the University Center. Moreover, no vote was taken in Committee on the question of approving the chosen site.

2. During AY 1999-2001 the Senate Chair served as Chair of the Committee. Such double service appears inconsistent with the Senate Chair's responsibilities under the Senate Bylaws to allocate resources and direct issues to Senate committees (see SCB 4.1), and in our judgment creates a conflict of responsibilities and interest that the Bylaws seek to avoid (see SCB 13.4.3). It is our hope that this double service will not be a precedent for future such double service by the Senate Chair.

Anthony Pratkanis
Joel Yellin