

*Mark L. Brenner*



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

University Senate Consultative Committee  
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April 24, 1989

Professor Henry Blackburn  
Division of Epidemiology  
School of Public Health  
Stadium Gate 27  
Minneapolis Campus

*is VP of DS,*

Dear Professor Blackburn:

My thanks for your kind comments about the Consultative Committee minutes. I showed your letter to Gary Engstrand, who writes them; I learned that you had sent very kind comments to Mike Steffes, who also showed them to Mr. Engstrand. I believe he has expressed his appreciation to you.

Another reason for your letter of April 17, however, is what prompts me to write. We have not voted to add an academic professional to the Consultative committee. What we voted to recommend to the Senate is that an academic professional be added to the Committee on Faculty Affairs—which deals with employee benefits and the retirement plan for faculty and academic professionals. We thought it only appropriate that they have representation on the committee which advises the central administration on the benefits which cover them. I must say that there is no sentiment whatever to change the composition of the Faculty Consultative Committee; it would lose its unique voice and status if other groups in the University were to be represented on it. As you doubtless know, other groups of employees at the University do have their own representative committees; we would not presume to tamper with their authority nor to represent the groups from which they have been chosen. *Se.?*

Finally, I want to thank you for your letter to your legislator. It is precisely such efforts as yours which can have an impact on how the University fares with the legislature. One cannot tell, of course, if the many letters from University faculty and staff have had any effect, but we do know that the situation has improved immeasurably since the beginning of the session. There remains much room for additional improvement, but we have certainly made progress, and it is no doubt in part at least due to letters such as yours.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are additional issues which you wish to bring to my attention.

Cordially,

*Mark L. Brenner*

Mark L. Brenner, Chair  
Faculty Consultative Committee