

Two chairpersons ousted; another put on probation

Two department chairpersons, Dr. Sanford Hotchkiss, psychology and Dr. John Cernica, civil engineering, will be relieved of their positions as chairpersons and will assume faculty status on July 1 and a third, Earl Harris, geology, will continue as chairperson on a probationary status.

YSU President John Coffelt agreed yesterday to implement the above changes which an outside arbitrator had recommended.

The Advocate, YSU-OEA's newsletter, which was distributed Thursday, gave a history of the OEA's efforts for the last six months to reach this end.

According to *The Advocate*, the decision, which was reached yesterday by an outside arbitrator, culminates six months of effort to invoke Article 9 Section E of the *Agreement* between the University and the OEA which states in part: "If sixty percent of the full-service faculty members in an academic department object to the manner in which a department chairperson is performing his duties, they may initiate a Presidential review of the matter..the President...shall investigate the matter thoroughly...and within 45 days

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Chairpersons

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of the filing, shall provide a...report on the review to the faculty complainants and the Association."

The Advocate reports that "three times during the past six months academic departments have presented signed statements to President Coffelt citing their reasons for total lack of confidence in their chairpersons with 100, 80 and 75 percent of the full-service department members signing the petitions in the three different cases.

Three times the president...failed to report...three times the President's decision was to continue the chairperson in his present position..."

The newsletter explains that after Coffelt failed to remove a chairperson in the second case, the YSU-OEA went to the Board of Trustees. On April 30, members of the Board's Personnel Relations Committee "expressed confidence in Coffelt and stated that the Association had not yet exhausted the remedies provided for in the *Agreement*." The newsletter said that the OEA took this as an offer to submit the issue to an arbitrator, which it did.

The arbitrator chosen was Dr. Thomas Mannix, a member of the

education faculty at City University of New York and acting director of the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education.

On Wednesday, the arbitrator ruled that "Two chairpersons will be allowed to complete their present terms in office but they will not be reappointed or serve as chairpersons beyond June 30, 1976. One chairperson has been awarded a probationary reappointment for two quarters which, if successful, leads to a normal one-year reappointment thereafter."

Neither Cernica, Hotchkiss or Harris would comment on the decision.

Dr. Dan O'Neill, newly-elected president of the YSU-OEA, said Thursday, "It is unfortunate that this issue came to a head like this. It could have been handled better by the administration."