

People are talking about the University

If there is any generalization possible about the first group of 18 University Seminars held throughout the state last fall, it is that the Missouri citizen has more questions about the faculty than about students, or even the size of the University of Missouri budget.

President John C. Weaver and the five other members of the University-wide staff who toured the state served as a sounding board for a great variety of questions about the University. They were glad to hear them, because that really was the purpose of the seminars, sponsored jointly by the alumni associations of the four campuses.

"We were there to listen," explained President Weaver, "and we learned considerably about the legitimate concerns of the people of Missouri in relation to their state university."

Most of the seminars were limited to 25 or so persons in order that a true open-forum type of format could be maintained. Guests included various civic leaders, as well as state legislators in the area.

Almost without exception, those attending the seminars reacted positively to the two-way discussion idea (one person remarked that he was happily surprised that it just wasn't another pitch for funds). And the administrators were pleased to find the strong reservoir of support for the University throughout the state, both in the areas of financing and in its educational mission. There was a great deal of pride expressed in the good behavior of University students.

But friends also can have sincere doubts, and there were more than 200 questions tossed at Weaver and the other administrators—A.G. Unklesbay, vice president for administration; Vernon E. Wilson, vice president for academic affairs; C. B. Ratchford, vice president for extension; G.H. Entsminger, vice president for development; and Stirling Kyd, assistant to the president.

So in Wentzville, Marshall, Poplar Bluff, Rolla, Jefferson City, Mexico, Kirksville, Flat River, Hannibal, Cape Girardeau, Warrensburg, Cabool, St. Joseph, Liberty, Hillsboro, Nevada, Kansas City, and Independence, here are some of the questions they asked (friends in St. Louis, Chillicothe, Springfield, Joplin, and perhaps two or three other places will get their chance later this winter):



Carl Ade, president of the Kansas City alumni, talks about his Alma Mater with Missouri president, John Weaver, left.

How much time do faculty members spend in actual teaching, and how much on research?

How many freshmen flunk out of the University?

How does the transfer of credits work among the four campuses?

Is the University too big?

How do you get rid of unwanted faculty members? Just what is tenure?

What are the rules about academic freedom?

Is out-of-state tuition high enough to pay the cost of educating those students?

How can you justify the time and expense devoted to football?

Are Missouri's entrance requirements too low?

Is there any control over the length of freshmen hair?

Is agriculture being slighted in the current extension programs?

Do the University's fund-raising efforts conflict with private schools?

Is there duplication of academic programs on the various campuses?

Why not eliminate all freshmen and sophomore classes from Columbia?

Why does the University own a commercial television station?

Are teachers evaluated by the extent of their publishing efforts?

Is the student advisement, counseling system as efficient as it should be?

Are there double standards for black students?

Are there plans for a law school on the St. Louis campus?

What's the proper role of the Commission on Higher Education?

What's the relationship between the University and junior colleges?

Do the news media do an accurate job in reporting student unrest?

Does student unrest stem from the teaching of some professors in the classroom?

Why not raise the tuition again to get the necessary funds for the University?

Why not push a bond issue for capital improvements in the state?

How does the University handle radical speakers who visit the campuses?

Does the state really need a medical school in Kansas City?

How many draft dodgers and "career" students are there at the University?

Are students from outstate Missouri at a disadvantage in competing with graduates from suburban and urban high schools?

Is the Columbia campus headed toward being a complex of graduate schools only?

Who gets all the parking privileges around the campuses, particularly at Columbia?

How many professors did not hold classes during the moratorium?

How much racial tension is on campus?

Why was Adam Clayton Powell invited to speak at the University?

How much money is paid to professors from federal grants?

Does the University suffer from empire building on the part of some departments?

What proportion of the actual cost of his education does the Missouri student pay?

What is the University doing for business?

How much effort are University professors making in encouraging the free-enterprise concept among students?

How many doctor graduates from the Medical School on the Columbia campus remain in Missouri?

Has an enrollment-cutoff figure been established for any of the campuses?

From time to time, the *Alumnus* will attempt to answer some of the above questions for the benefit of all Association members. Stories are scheduled on the broad, faculty subject of academic freedom, teaching vs. research, and tenure, and on the beginning-student subject of the University's admission policies, counseling, and the flunk-out rate.

If readers would like answers to specific questions concerning the University, write the *Alumnus*. Your letter and the answer to the question will appear in the magazine.

