

Some Welcome News for Things of the Spirit



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The strong likelihood that the legislature will provide 15% "catch-up" pay between January 1986 and July 1987 is wonderful news. For while I am certain that money cannot buy the special spirit of the Law School, we had reached a point where the difference between our salaries and the Big Ten Schools raised the spectre that we would be an easy hunting ground for rival appointment committees.

Our faculty has resisted the financial lures of other schools for many reasons, including the charms of Madison, and the intellectual excitement within the university and the Law School. But we lost a distinguished colleague to UCLA this year, and the danger was that it might signal the start of an unraveling of the mutual threads of interest which bind us together.

The 15% catch-up is calculated to bring the UW-Madison from the bottom level up to the middle salaries offered in the Big Ten and "Other Peers" identified in the Governor's study: Texas; UCLA; Berkeley; North Carolina; and the University of Washington.

Lest anyone think that 15% is extravagant, I note that the overall increase obscures differences of need within the university. To have law faculty salaries reach the average level of peers for the academic year 1984-85, we would need 24.7% to reach the average level of the Big Ten, 32.7% to reach the level of the "Other Peers" or 28.7% increase to

reach the average level of the Big Ten and "Other Peers" combined.

The legislative commitment to begin solving the salary problems is reassuring. Our spirit cannot live on the view of Lake Mendota alone. It is also gratifying to see that our alums and other friends have responded so generously to the first endowment campaign in the history of the school. We will be able to achieve a margin of excellence in our programs beyond the basic support provided by the state.

We will report on our endowment campaign in a later issue. If you have not yet contributed, now is the time to do so. With a mind to contribution, alums ask me about the School. They are obviously pleased to hear about our faculty's commitment to teaching, and about the state, national, and international fame in significant research and publication. But alums also ask about students, as they reflect on their own law school careers. So I'll end by noting two student efforts of this past year which I think are characteristic of the Law Schools' spirit. One, the placing of plants in what were formerly ashtrays in our halls, was reported to you in the last issue. The other was the establishment of a telephone answering service for newly admitted students. The student volunteers handling this service provided answers to questions about the up-coming law school experience and, more importantly, the service eased doubts and generally provided a warm welcome to a great Law School.