

# STUDENT NEWSLETTER

1974 Fall Edition

## Contributing Schools:

Florida State University  
College of St. Theresa  
Michigan State University  
Montclair State College  
Texas Woman's University  
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire  
University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh  
Wayne State University

THE STUDENT MOVEMENT  
Editorial

At the national convention in Philadelphia, a student business meeting was held. Approximately 60 students attended this meeting, representing 17 different schools. A good portion of this meeting was spent with students airing their dislikes about the method of applying for internships and the question of granting a degree before or after completing the internship. Several times various students suggested the necessity for forming a national student organization, so that the students would have a collective voice loud enough to be heard.

Apparently these students were not aware that such complaints have arisen before and that there have been attempts to organize in the past. In 1961, the students from Florida State University organized a national music therapy fraternity - Alpha Mu. The fraternity fought for support from NMTF and other schools across the country but has never caught on fully. Donald Michel has written a history of the student movement up to 1973, which can be found in the Journal of Music Therapy, Vol. XI, No. 1, Spring 1974, on pp. 53 - 55.

In the meantime students at the 1972 Great Lakes Regional convention drafted four resolutions after a "gripe session" similar to the one in Philadelphia. These resolutions were in turn presented at the national student meeting in East Lansing and subsequently approved. The four resolutions were:

- I. That all accredited schools offering degrees in Music Therapy award said degree only upon the completion of a six-month internship.
- II. That guitar instruction be instituted as a required part of the curriculum and be given greater emphasis.
- III. That the National Student Coordinator be a voting member of the executive committee.
- IV. That a type of Orientation or field experience be a required part of accredited degree programs within the first year as a music therapy major to be included in an introductory course for all M.T. majors.

These four resolutions were circulated to every school by mail during the year 1972 for approval or disapproval. Although only four schools responded, the student coordinator, (an A.M.T. appointed by the executive committee to represent the students), referred them to the executive committee for consideration anyway. Resolution III was passed. The other three were sent to the education committee for "further study".

What happened to the other student resolutions? Were they rejected or just forgotten? Actually they went from the education committee to the clinical practices committee where they are still under "further consideration".

Had the students at Philadelphia been aware that their concerns had already been brought before the powers that be, they would not have wasted three hours airing the same issues. They might have addressed the questions. "What happened to our resolutions? How can we get more immediate action on student issues?" They might have taken note of the statement made by Gerri Davis, R.W.T. at that meeting. She said, "If the students are interested in having a student be a voting member on the executive committee of NACT, I think the committee might consider it."

A student on the executive committee would not only have the opportunity to bring up concerns about curriculum, he or she would also be aware and a part of other business of the executive committee. He or she would have knowledge of other issues which students now are generally unaware. How many students, for example, are aware that a 1 year maximum period for applying for internship is being considered? Do they know that NACT is considering not granting registration to a student who has received less than a C in a music therapy class? Do they know that NACT is developing a national board examination that will be a requirement for registration? A student representative on the executive committee could bring these and other issues to the student's attention.

The last day of the convention in Philadelphia, another student meeting was held. The 15 students present drafted a resolution stating that a provision for a room for student meetings be arranged ahead of time at every national convention, and that the moderator for the student meetings be the president of the music therapy club at the college nearest the convention site. If this resolution is passed by the executive committee, it will help to assure continuity in the student movement.

Another assurance of continuity would be that the moderator have a summary of the student movement in past years to be read before discussion is opened at the meeting. Eau Claire is trying to put together such a summary for next year's convention. Minutes should be taken at the 1975 meeting and added to the summary to be passed on to the moderator for 1976, etc.

Of course, the most effective means of accomplishing anything for the students' benefit would be to organize nationally. Let's use the spring newsletter to communicate on this topic. And let's be more informed and organized at the next national convention.  
LET'S GET SOMETHING DONE!

Ginni Smith  
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