



1-1970

The State of the Association for General and Liberal Studies

Horatio M. LaFauci
Boston University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/perspectives>



Part of the Higher Education Commons, and the Liberal Studies Commons

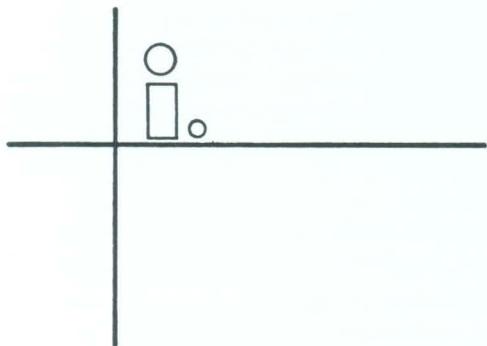
Recommended Citation

LaFauci, Horatio M. (1970) "The State of the Association for General and Liberal Studies," *Perspectives*: Vol. 2 : No. 1 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/perspectives/vol2/iss1/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Perspectives by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact maira.bundza@wmich.edu.





The State of the Association for General and Liberal Studies

For some time I have been concerned about the state of the Association for General and Liberal Studies and the need for a more purposeful role and function. I am not alone in my concern. The Association must do more than remain a viable entity. It must become a coordinating and stimulating force among those who are concerned with general education and undergraduate teaching. For this, an annual meeting alone will not suffice.

While the Association has had a membership representing some 76 institutions of higher education, the membership levels have been inconsistent and the membership inconstant. Direct involvement in the affairs of the Association has been limited to a handful of people, leaving the Executive Committee as caretakers during a lengthy period of inactivity which, in effect, runs from one Annual Meeting to the next. Membership has but limited voice in the affairs of the Association; few special services attract a new membership or assist those who seek to gain personally or professionally from the experiences. Again, an annual meeting alone will not suffice.

If the Association is to become a shaping force, it must serve as a consortium of individuals and institutions with common interests actively sharing ideas, developing relationships, making contributions, and reaching toward common goals. To serve the profession thus, the Association must broaden its membership base. First, however, it must broaden the base of involvement by increasing and extending opportunities for direct engagement of the membership at large; second, it must develop and provide services which will be of interest and value to present and potential members; and third, it must be

prepared to accept a leadership role in extending and refining the processes of general-liberal education and undergraduate teaching.

With such a future in mind, the Executive Committee at its Winter Meeting in Tampa voted to begin a gradual reorganization of the structure of the Association. As a first step three new committees were created:

1. Committee on Membership
2. Committee to Study the Feasibility of a Placement Service
3. Committee to Study the Feasibility of a Committee on Resources

The Committee on Membership will be asked to actively identify and contact individuals and institutions whose professional purposes and interests might be well served through membership in the Association for General and Liberal Studies. This Committee might create a directory of general-liberal education programs whose practitioners will be urged to active membership in the Association. Current annual dues are \$25 for institutional membership; \$6 for individual membership. The Committee on Membership will consist of the following representatives:

John Hicks, Southern Methodist University—Chairman
Warren S. Smith, The Pennsylvania State University
E. J. Fox, Eastern New Mexico University
S. D. Lovell, Southern Illinois University (Edwardsville, Ill.)

A Committee to Study the Feasibility of a Placement Service will consider by what means the Association could assist members as well as non-members to further or initiate careers in general-liberal undergraduate teaching. It will explore how lists of positions available and positions desired might be maintained and circulated among participating institutions; how *Perspectives* and the *Newsletter* might be appropriately used in such a service; in brief, whether such a service would be appropriate, feasible, and economically possible. Membership of this Committee includes:

Paul Bernstein, Rochester Institute of Technology—Chairman
James G. Rice, Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri
Imy V. Holt, Western Michigan University
John H. Humphries, Rochester Institute of Technology
John Weber, Monroe County Community College, Monroe, Mich.

The Committee to Study the Feasibility of establishing a Resource Committee will examine the need and potential role for a carefully selected representative coordinating committee, which could maintain and update a directory of general education programs; maintain brief narrative statements describing the general education programs offered by members of the Association; assist member institutions in structuring the programs for the Annual Meetings; assist member institutions in

planning and developing periodic regional workshops; and provide consultative service by referring inquiries to appropriate Association members. A committee of this kind might, in due course, consider the development and distribution of a collection of general education texts, general education tests, course outlines and other pertinent materials. It might secure grant assistance for projects of common interest to the Association membership. Members of this Study Committee are:

Robert M. Limpus, Western Michigan University—Chairman
W. G. Warrington, Michigan State University
James A. Fisher, Boston University
Thomas Nuckols, Austin College, Sherman, Texas
Irmgard Johnson, University of Florida

Creation of a new committee structure will increase active participation of membership in the conduct of the Association, and help move the Association into dynamic professional commitments. The Executive Committee could continue at its present size, responsible for redefinition of the ultimate structure of A.G.L.S., its modus operandi, the development of broad policy, review of committee recommendations and reports for submission to the Association membership, and coordination of leadership responsibilities within the Association.

It is the hope of the Executive Committee that the reports of newly created Committees will be available for the Annual Meetings to be held at the University of Chicago in the fall of 1970.

In addition, a Nominating Committee consisting of Professor Malcolm Correll (past A.G.L.S. President), University of Colorado, Professor F. Theodore Marvin, Western Michigan University, and Dean Edwin P. Martin, University of South Florida, is preparing a slate of candidates for 1971 elections for submission to the membership.

I am pleased to report that at the mid-winter meeting, the Executive Committee accepted the following invitations to host the 1971 and 1972 Annual Meetings:

1971 Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
1972 Rochester Institute of Technology

The 1970 Annual Meeting will be held at the University of Chicago. Dr. Knox Hill is coordinating the planning for that institution. Preliminary announcements will be distributed in due course.

At the request of the Executive Committee, I have made formal inquiry of Dr. Paul Dressel, President of the A.A.H.E., to initiate a dialogue regarding relationships between this Association and the A.A.H.E.

I believe it is imperative that the A.G.L.S. move forward. I invite advice and suggestions from all who would be interested (members

and non-members) in the development of a more productive Association to help provide more forward thrust toward common goals. I hope my report to the Association membership in Chicago will indicate progress toward these ends.

Horatio M. LaFauci
President, A.G.L.S.
Dean, College of Basic Studies
Boston University

