Administration and Student Congress Reach Compromise

Salve Regina College

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The Administration and Student Congress of Salve Regina College have reached a compromise for conflict resolution regarding the Congress' Student Rights and Responsibilities Bill, it was announced today (Thursday, Feb. 25).

Sister Mary Christopher, R.S.M., president of the women's college; Miss Carolyn Reder, president of the Congress; student leaders; and members of the College's Alumnae Association and Fathers Council met last evening in a five-hour closed session which resulted in two major modifications of the controversial bill and a moratorium on its implementation.

One modification involved the article stating that students have "the right to legislate in matters which affect student living and the responsibility to investigate the matter at hand, and consult qualified personnel, such as the Dean of Women." The group would have this article rewritten to give students the right to participate on a committee (to be set up by the College's existing committee on residence life) which would have equal representation of students and administration and which would be a decision-making body in areas now covered by the Dean of Women. The committee's decisions would be subject to administrative review.

The other modification would delete an article expressing the students' "right to expand their knowledge by any means they see fit, providing it is within keeping with state and federal law." It was the consensus of the group that this right was stated more explicitly in a subsequent article concerning the students' "right and responsibility to contribute in the shaping of their educational programs."

The proposed modification, if approved by the College Council, would clear the way for implementation of the Bill, which has otherwise already won the approval of the College's administration. It is expected that the Council, composed of administration, faculty members, and students, will consider the modifications at their next meeting, Wednesday, March 3.

The moratorium on the present implementation of the Bill, which will extend to April 19, when classes resume after the school's spring vacation, will allow time for the new committee on residence life to form and consider social regulations proposed by the student body.

Since the Administration had written to the parents of present students a letter about the current implementation of the Bill, the ten-member group has agreed to write a letter jointly with the Student Congress explaining last evening's resolution of the situation.