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**Comments on the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on National and University Awards**  
**comments by W. Wilkonson for UCAP**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Awards has produced a report with recommendations which would leave the University awards system fundamentally unchanged, but which would make the awards system more likely fairly and efficiently to achieve its aim of recognition of faculty and staff for notable contributions to MSU and to academic disciplines.

In its recommendations and conclusion the report largely speaks for itself. There is an effort to find ways and to institute practices so as to insure an adequate pool of candidates for awards; to insure peer input into selection processes; to clarify the criteria of eligibility for the Teacher-Scholar Award (TS); to provide a way for deserving persons insufficiently recognized in their home units to be nominated for awards while leaving nominations for the most part in the hands of units; to allow re-nominations; to promote establishment of college and unit procedures systematically to nominate and to help nominees; and to control the amount of materials units and nominees must gather and selection committees must read, while insuring materials would be adequate for fair judgments.

The report answers most of the questions the committee had to answer. The others were answered in the course of constructing the report without being answered in the report because the answers resulted in no recommendation. For example, questions concerning the small numbers of women and minority faculty among award winners were settled by the finding that the ratio of the number of women and minority winners to the total number of winners was approximately the same as that of the number of women and minority faculty and staff to the total of faculty and staff. So that problems of gender and ethnic mix seemed not to be rooted in the awards system but elsewhere, and the committee made no recommendation about it.

On the whole the committee's recommendations are not radical but appear to be sensible and well-grounded.