

U of I rated good on women's issues

University council report says more work still needed

By Lyle Muller

Gazette Johnson County Bureau
IOWA CITY — The University of Iowa is doing an above-average job in fighting sexual harassment and showing leadership on women's issues, a U of I group said Monday.

However, more must be done to make sure women are recruited, paid fairly and made to feel welcome at the U of I, the university's Council on the Status of Women said in a written report.

The council — a faculty and staff organization — annually gives letter grades to rate how well its members believe university officials are doing in encouraging women to study and work at the U of I.

It gave B's for dealing with sexual harassment and leadership during the 1996-97 school year. It gave a C plus for campus climate, C for salary equity and C minus for recruitment and retention.

"Generally, I think people should be heartened to know that we're out there doing this work, raising these issues," said Jan Warren, chairwoman of the council's Affirmative Action Subcommittee. "We're really trying to highlight the concerns of women on campus."

U OF I GRADES

'96-97 '95-96 '94-95

Overall leadership	B	B-	D+
Sexual harassment	B	C+	C-
Recruitment and retention	C-	C-	C
Salary equity	C	C	C+
Campus climate	C+	B-	B

Source: U of I Council on the Status of Women Gazette graphic

Ann Rhodes, U of I vice president for university relations, said administrators were pleased with the marks. "I think it shows some progress in some key areas," Rhodes said.

The first time the council issued a report card, two years ago, the group gave the U of I a D plus in overall leadership for the 1994-95 school year. Since then, the State Board of Regents has hired the U of I's first female president, Mary Sue Coleman.

Warren said the grades are intended to measure what happens in a given school year, rather than to gauge progress from year to year. Still, Council

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on the Status of Women members have been impressed with both Coleman and Provost Jon Whitmore, the council's report said.

Coleman has led calls for diversity, and Whitmore has agreed to meet with female faculty twice annually to hear concerns.

However, some problems remain. A family services coordinator job remained vacant for a half year, delaying services, the council said. And a study on equitable faculty salaries is lagging, and women still accounted for only 22 percent of the university's 1,600 tenure-tracked faculty, the report said.