

Y

UI grades average on report card from women's-status council

WOMEN

Continued from Page 1A

Deone Pedersen, the former chairwoman of the council.

"If we're trying to recruit a diverse population, we need to pay attention to things that will retain them, to help them succeed," she said. "Otherwise we have done them a disservice."

Five categories were assessed in the report: campus climate received a B-minus, salary equity a C-plus, sexual harassment a B, recruitment and retention, and leadership.

"We're not writing this report card to be adversarial, to be confrontational," Warren said. "We just believe that there are issues out there that need to be addressed."

The issues raised by the report are substantiated with reports, data and interviews, Warren said.

"We check out all of our information as best we can," she said. "We're not making things up. This isn't just an opinion poll."

"It's a helpful tool by a group who concerns themselves with important issues," said Susan Mask, director of Affirmative Action. "We look at it and see how policies are working on campus, especially regarding women."

The report card format was chosen because people in an academic institution could relate to

“

The grades are the least important. It's the substance of the report that matters.

— Jan Warren,

chairwoman of the Council on the Status of Women

”

and understand it better, Warren said.

She encourages everyone to read the actual contents of the report, which goes beyond merely grading the UI to offer suggestions for improvement in each category.

"The grades are the least important," Warren said. "It's the substance of the report that matters."

The report is also a means to document improvements taking place at the UI.

"We can look at year by year and see how things have progressed," Pedersen said.

Many of the council members commended President Mary Sue Coleman's involvement with the report.

"She's very responsive to our concerns," Warren said. "She addresses the points and talks to her colleagues."

For some UI students, an active administration gives them hope for improvements on campus.

"It's a good sign when the report card shows signs of improvement and is taken very seriously by the central adminis-

tration," said Megan Levad, a UI junior and council member.

The first report card took the administration by surprise, Pedersen said. But now that it is expected, "we have something to sit down and talk over with," she said. "It brings the issues out into the open."

Although she does not hold out hope for straight A's, Warren said, she is optimistic about the future.

"With the right information and the right people working together, (the report) can serve as a catalyst to continue to move issues forward," she said.

The Council on the Status of Women is a volunteer organization consisting of 20 voting members from the UI — faculty, professional and scientific staff, merit staff and students — and other campus representatives.

"Our mission is to ensure an environment that supports the rights of all women at the UI," Warren said.

DI reporter Anita Chlipala can be reached at:
anita-chlipala@uiowa.edu