

December 2023

University Governance Collection (1969-71 Constitutional Convention/Tri-Partite Council)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.fairfield.edu/findingaids>

In early 1969, Fairfield University formed a tri-partite council, an advisory group comprised of twelve that included representatives from students, faculty, and administrators, to improve communication between the groups during a time of civil unrest. The council held its initial meeting in February 1969 and established the Constitutional Convention which convened until the Constitution was finalized in March 1971. Professor Edward Dew who participated in the convention has provided a summary of Fairfield University's effort to develop a shared government, as were many universities at this time. This collection contains the files of both Dr. Edward Dew and Dr. Lisa Perkins who participated in the work of the convention. The final document, Fairfield University Constitution for University Governance, was ratified on March 20, 1971. The Board of Trustees was presented with the content of the Constitution and, while acknowledging the need for better communication within the university, praised the work of the convention, but reserved any final decision on the matter to the University President.

Recommended Citation

University Governance Collection (1969-71 Constitutional Convention/Tri-Partite Council), 1969-1971. Finding Aids, Fairfield, Conn.

This item has been accepted for inclusion in DigitalCommons@Fairfield by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Fairfield. It is brought to you by DigitalCommons@Fairfield with permission from the rights-holder(s) and is protected by copyright and/or related rights. **You are free to use this item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses, you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself.** For more information, please contact digitalcommons@fairfield.edu.

University Governance Collection: 1969-1971 Constitutional Convention/Tri-Partite Council

Page | 1

Processed by Ann Munnely, May 2022

Title: University Governance Collection (1969-71 Constitutional Convention/Tri-Partite Council)

Dates: 1969 through 1971

Quantity: 1 Box, less than 1 linear foot

Origin: Various sources, including Records of Professor Edward Dew, Professor Lisa Perkins, and Student Government

Repository: Fairfield University Archives and Special Collections

Historical Note / Biographical Note:

In early 1969, Fairfield University formed a tri-partite council, an advisory group comprised of twelve that included representatives from students, faculty, and administrators, to improve communication between the groups during a time of civil unrest. The council held its initial meeting in February 1969 and established the constitutional convention which convened until the Constitution was finalized in March 1971. Professor Edward Dew who participated in the convention has provided a summary of Fairfield University's effort to develop a shared government, as were many universities at this time. Dr. Dew describes the times as follows: "Discussions, in the spirit of community, had been prompted by a number of events on the Fairfield campus: the war in Vietnam (and the pressures of Selective Service, i.e., the draft); incidents with regards to control of the school newspaper; social activism in general; and the debate over the school admitting women in the new future." This collection contains the files of both Dr. Edward Dew and Dr. Lisa Perkins who participated in the work of the convention. The final document, Fairfield University Constitution for University Governance, was ratified on March 20, 1971, but as Dr. Dew states, "voting was mixed and, thus, negative." The Board of Trustees was presented with the content of the Constitution and while acknowledging the need for better communication within the university and praised the work of the convention, the Board reserved any final decision on the matter to the University President.

Sources: "Fairfield U. Students, Faculty to Close 'Communication Gap'", Bridgeport Post, February 4, 1969; "Statement of Board of Trustees on University Governance," March 1971; Barone Memorandum dated September 22, 1971, "Edited Copy of Constitution," Dew Memorandum dated June 27, 2014, "For the Fairfield University Archives."

Scope and Content of Papers:

This collection is comprised of records of different creators, including Professor Edward Dew, Dr. Lisa Perkins, Dr. John Barone (Provost), and others who were involved with the Constitutional Convention that convened from 1969 through May 1971. Professor Edward Dew's files, contained in Box 1, include his summary of the Convention and its significance reflecting the political and civil issues of the day. Also included in this collection are the files maintained by Dr. Lisa Perkins about the Constitutional

**University Governance Collection:
1969-1971 Constitutional Convention/Tri-Partite Council**

Convention, the Tri-Partite Council, and the final Constitution. Included are meeting minutes and drafts, newspaper clippings, correspondence, as well as the final constitution. Documents of note include Professor Edward Dew's 2014 memo that summarizes his view of the convention (Box 1, Folder 1), the final Constitution for University Governance ratified and approved by the Board of Trustees in October 1971 (Box 1, Folder 1), as well as a January 4, 1971 report from faculty member Father John McIntyre, stating faculty concerns (Box 1, Folder 7).

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	0	Finding Aid
1	1	Constitutional Convention (Records of Professor Edward Dew; 2014 Memo to File; 1971 Clippings)
1	2	Constitutional Convention (Records of Professor Edward Dew; 1970 Minutes)
1	3	Constitutional Convention (Records of Professor Edward Dew; 1971 Minutes and Notes)
1	4	Constitutional Convention (Records of Professor Edward Dew; 1971 Notes and Drafts)
1	5	Constitutional Convention, Tri-Partite University Council 1969-1971
1	6	Constitutional Convention, Tri-Partite University Council 1970
1	7	Constitutional Convention, Tri-Partite University Council 1971