Literature chairman resigns; cites ‘lack of concern’

27 Nov 73
By Nancy S. Coleman

Citing a “lack of concern and consideration from the University administration” Wayne P. Lawson, chairman of the Division of Comparative Literature and Languages within the College of Humanities, submitted a letter of resignation last week.

In his Nov. 20 letter to Arthur Adams, dean of the College of Humanities, Lawson stated the administration has failed to support the Comparative Literature division. Lawson said that although the administration has supported the College of Humanities as a whole, it has “specifically ignored” contributions by the Comparative Literature division.

Lawson, a faculty member since 1965 and chairman since 1970, said that despite Adams’ approval and encouragement of several new programs and proposals to improve the division, Lawson’s recommendations have all been rejected by the Committee for Academic Affairs.

“I find that I am no longer capable of committing myself to a program that repeatedly receives such negative responses from the administration,” Lawson said.

“I also feel that since I assumed the chairmanship that I have been misled into believing that this division would someday earn its proper and appropriate place in the College of Humanities if certain changes were made within the division, among them my completion of the doctorate and the upgrading of the academic qualifications of the staff.”

Lawson claimed that despite the accomplishment of these changes, the goals of the division would not be realized as long as he remains chairman of the division. He suggested in his letter that a chairman with more academic stature would be able to gain the approval of division’s programs which he has failed to receive.

Lawson’s resignation, which would become effective January 1, 1974, has not yet been approved by Adams. Adams, who refused to comment on whether or not the resignation would be approved, plans to discuss the matter with the division’s executive committee and faculty.

In separate meetings Monday night, students and faculty members of the Comparative Literature division met to discuss Lawson’s resignation. The faculty chose a representative to present their reactions to the resignation at the executive committee meeting today.

Departure studied by committee

By Nancy S. Coleman
28 Nov 73

Negotiations are still underway between the executive committee of the Division of Comparative Literature and Languages and Arthur Adams, dean of the College of Humanities concerning the resignation of the division’s chairman, Wayne P. Lawson.

Lawson, who submitted his resignation to Adams Nov. 20, cited his dissatisfaction with the University administration and the failure of the Committee for Academic Affairs to approve his program recommendations as reasons for his resignation.

The Comparative Literature Executive Committee met with Adams Monday to discuss Lawson’s resignation. Adams said no decision had yet been reached as to whether Lawson’s resignation would be accepted.

“We’re hoping to find a solution that will be satisfactory to both sides,” Adams said. “There were several proposals, but we’re still talking.”

Comp lit controversy centers on major plan

27 Nov 73
By Anne Fabray

The proposals which Wayne Lawson, chairman of the Division of Comparative Literature, feels have received “negative responses” from the Office of Academic Affairs include establishment of an official comparative literature major and corresponding curriculum changes.

According to Lawson and Arthur Adams, dean of the College of Humanities, three or four proposals for the major and six or eight for curriculum change have been sent to the Office of Academic Affairs in the past three years.

Lawson said three factors involved in the rejection of the proposals are the existence of corresponding courses in the College of Humanities, failure to offer great works of literature in the native language, and lack of faculty.

All of the present comparative literature “majors” come through the Personalized Studies Program.

George P. Crepeau, associate provost of the Office for Academic Affairs, was hesitant to discuss the issue of Lawson’s complaints concerning the Committee for Academic Affairs.

“The matter is in Dean Adams’ hands,” he said. “I’m not comfortable about making comments on allegations we read in the paper.”

“I don’t know if he (Lawson) wants to make us the scapegoat,” Crepeau said.
AN OPEN LETTER TO DR. ALBERT J. KUHN FROM THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF THE DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES
The following letter of resignation was presented to
the faculty and staff of the Division of Comparative
Literature on Tuesday, November 20, 1973:

Dear Dean Adams:

With this letter I hereby submit to you my
resignation as chairman of the Division of Comparative
Literature and Languages effective January 1974.
In no way should this resignation imply a dissatisfaction
with my staff or students. Both have been supportive
of the academic goals for which I have worked.

This decision to leave my position as chairman
came after close and painful examination of several
factors which my conversations with you last week made
clear. I feel that there has been a lack of concern
and consideration from the university administration,
especially Provost Albert J. Kuhn, to support actively
the goals of this Division. The administration has
been constantly willing to recognize the academic
and intellectual growth of the College of Humanities
in general while specifically ignoring the contributions
that have been made in all areas—teaching, scholarship,
and academic growth—by the Division of Comparative
Literature and Languages.

During my chairmanship I have worked, along with
a consistently improving staff, to resist the depersonal-
ization of the learning process too often prevalent at
a large university like Ohio State and I have
directed my energies toward the improvement of
undergraduate education. The large number of
students from the Honors Program of the College
of Arts and Sciences which is presently pursuing
a major in Comparative Literature along with
those working under the Arts and Sciences personalized
study program in Comparative Literature indicate to
me that the program has been successful. Yet each
new program or proposal that I have submitted with
your encouragement and approval with the aim of
encouraging and supporting students in their
pursuit of an education in the Humanities through
Comparative Literature, has been refused by Academic
Affairs. I find that I am no longer capable of
committing myself to a program that repeatedly
receives such negative responses from the administration.

I also feel that since I assumed the chairmanship
in 1964 I have been misled into believing that this
Division would someday earn its proper and appropriate
place in the College of Humanities if certain changes
were made within the Division, among them my
completion of the doctorate and the upgrading of the
academic qualifications of the staff. This recognition
for the Division and its work with undergraduate
students is one of the goals toward which I have
dedicated myself. I am now aware that despite the
accomplishment of those changes, as long as I
remain chairman of this Division, that goal will not
be realized.

Unfortunately, the successful alumni from
Comparative Literature, the growing number of students
presently doing work within the Division, and the
academic improvements made in the quality of our
program over the last four years have had little
effect on Academic Affairs. Consequently I must
assume that a chairman with more academic stature
might be able to gain approval of the very program
that I have been unable to achieve for the
continued improvement of this Division.

It is now time for me to pursue my own
academic career which I set aside six years ago in
order to act as administrator for this Division.
I shall accept your offer of an ARD to me for
Winter Quarter, 1974, to finish the articles and
book which are presently in progress.

I would like to add that my resignation
should not alter the duties and responsibilities
of this university in supporting the programs of
students presently enrolled in Comparative
Literature. A crucial principle of involvements
with our students must be maintained and those
who have begun concentrations in Comparative
Literature must, as has been the practice of the
University, be able to complete them.

Before I begin my assigned research duty, I
shall assist you in whatever way I can to make the
transition from one chairman to another as smooth
and as little disruptive to the students and staff
as possible.

Finally, I believe that my resignation will
have a personal and academic effect on several
people. For this reason I shall be sending a
copy to the Comparative Literature Advisory
Committee which you and I appointed several weeks
ago (Professors Babcock, Consoreli, and Vitti) and
to my staff.

Thank you for such support as you have been
able to obtain for Comparative Literature.

Sincerely yours,
Wayne F. Lawson
Chairman
The Division of Comparative Literature is shocked and dismayed over the resignation of its Chairman. We met with him on Tuesday last with the naive expectation that our years of effort to create what we had considered to be a unique educational program had finally come to fruition. We had anticipated the news that the program for which we had devoted enormous amounts of time and energy, and into which we had put our ideals, experience, and hopes, had finally been formally recognized.

In the past two years, we have suffered a painful bloodletting in which we have endured the loss of some of our most gifted faculty because they lack the "necessary academic credentials" to make our program acceptable to the Administration.

With Dean Adams' help and encouragement, we felt that our program had the necessary administrative support, because it had demonstrated its commitment to the individual student, the viability of its creative approach, as well as the willingness of its faculty to pursue advanced credentials.

Since Wayne Lawson accepted the post of Chairman in 1966, the Division of Comparative Literature has grown from a nucleus of three basic courses, taught by "casual" employees to the following:

1. A program of seventeen courses beyond the 100-level.
2. A unique as well as highly successful International Seminar program.
3. The Comparative Literature Festival, anticipating its fourth season.
4. Over fifty students enrolled as majors under the Independent and Personalized Study Programs. This is the fourth largest major enrollment in the College of the Humanities.

Aside from these achievements, we point with justifiable pride to:

1. One faculty and one student Fulbright award.
2. Two NEH program grants and one NEH individual research grant.
3. The 1972-73 Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award to our Chairman, Wayne P. Lawson.

We assume that in your capacity as Vice President for Academic Affairs, you understood that the impressive accomplishments listed above would not have been possible without the dedicated and creative leadership of Wayne P. Lawson, and the support and guidance of Dean Adams. We are therefore appalled at what appears to be an arbitrary and forced resignation. We must conclude from this action that those qualities which seem to make Wayne Lawson unacceptable to work with the Administration in the continuing development of our program are those which we would consider his strengths: idealism, humanity, total dedication and uncompromising support of teachers who are committed to a program which has as its foremost concern, the student.

We feel especially brutalized by such a shocking decision, coming as it does early in the academic year, and by the imposition of a new Chairman with no consultation with the faculty. We are left with a sense of impotence, because we feel that we have no recourse and nothing to stand on except our united reaction and concern.
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AN OPEN LETTER TO WAYNE LAWSON
AND THE FACULTY OF THE DIVISION
OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
30 Nov 73

LANTERN

Since you have seen fit to publish charges against the Provost, Dr. Albert J. Kuhn, that are false, and since you have made other statements that are inaccurate, I feel I must do what I can to set the record straight for our academic community. I do this primarily because, in my judgment, you have indefensibly maligned the Provost and misinterpreted the course of events which brought about Mr. Lawson’s resignation.

In the letter of resignation you have published, Mr. Lawson charges that "each new program or proposal that [he has] submitted with [my] encouragement and approval... has been rejected by that [Mr. Kuhn]..." This is false, as I have explained repeatedly during meetings with your faculty and your Executive Committee in recent weeks. Mr. Lawson had, in fact, sought my encouragement and approval for a major Comparative Literature program which would have endorsed a highly structured program of study. Mr. Lawson and I agreed that this would lead to the creation of a departmental structure to make the enlarged, specialized graduate students familiar with a broad range of modern languages, and that such a proposal was consistent with the mission of undergraduate education in the humanities which had been undertaken by the Division of Comparative Literature. It had never been the intent of Mr. Lawson, the Comparative Literature faculty, or myself, to create such a narrow specialization program, but to develop a broad-based program to prepare students for a variety of future careers.

In regard to the second paragraph of your letter, the proposal you submitted, for the further expansion and development of programs in Comparative Literature, it was my firm belief that the College of Humanities office contributed more than your were aware of to the development of the proposal. I, in turn, rejected the proposal because it was not complete and, in my judgment, it did not meet the standards of excellence which I have set for the faculty of the Division of Humanities. I do not believe that the proposal was poorly conceived or poorly executed, but rather that it was not presented in a way that fully demonstrated its potential for success.

The Provost was, of course, involved in the discussions of both proposals. But to charge me with malice or prejudice is unwarranted. I feel that the decision we made was not to go forward with the latest proposal was a correct one.

I hope this makes some sense on the statement published by the faculty of the Division of Comparative Literature. This again seems to me to erroneously charge the Provost with a harmful influence he neither possesses nor exercises.

The simple facts are these: that despite your devotion of "enormous amounts of time and energy... ideals, experience, and hopes," in the judgment of your peers, Comparative Literature's programs require to be improved and expanded if they are to realize the goals we all wish them to achieve. As your Dean, acting on the advice of our faculty committees, I believe that we have never made the intellectual contribution to the further development of these programs which the University has a right to demand. Since you have made this a public issue, I would welcome a full examination of the Comparative Literature programs by a committee of specialists--from outside the University--appointed by the President.

This process of "bloodletting" has, of course, been influenced by a very great loss of student enrollments over the past four years. From the 1969-70 academic year through the 1972-73 academic year (the last for which we have complete figures) Credit Hour enrollment in the Division of Comparative Literature has suffered a dramatic falling off of 50% from 21,441 to 10,817. Student Registrations (the actual number of students enrolled in all courses, regardless of the number of credit hours) has suffered an even more drastic decline, from 7,147 to 3,333, a loss of 55%. If present projections are correct, this last figure will have reached 63% by the end of the current academic year.

These processes are, of course, taking place in other departments as well, the result of a gradual but painful process of budget reallocation in the face of declining enrollments. There is no reason whatever for implying that the Division of Comparative Literature is being deliberately persecuted.

Your last paragraph is a simple misstatement of fact. You claim that you have been "especailly brutalized by... the imposition of a new Chairman with no consultation with the faculty." You are aware, of course, that no new Chairman has been appointed. You are aware too, since you have been present, that in recent weeks I have not participated with the Executive Committee, and once with the full faculty of the Comparative Literature Division, and that decisions will be made from these discussions only as we make them together.

In sum, I deeply regret that you have chosen to make the Provost's scapegoat of your inabilities and decisions for which I, together with the Chairman and the faculty of the Division are, must, be responsible. It is my sincere hope that you will know my comments to be well intended and will improve the work of the Division, and provide programs for our Undergraduate students not just as good as they have been in the past, but much better, insofar as that is possible. I hope we may proceed in concert with the improvement of Comparative Literature at Ohio State University, the goal we all desire so much to achieve.

--Arthur E. Adams, Dean, College of Humanities
Kuhn not solely responsible for resignation, dean says

By Eric Davis
30 Nov 73

An open letter in today's Lantern denies the implication that Albert J. Kuhn, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, is responsible for the resignation of Wayne P. Lawson as chairman of the Division of Comparative Literature.

The letter, written by Arthur E. Adams, dean of the College of Humanities, rebuts a letter in the Lantern Thursday signed by 15 of the 17 Columbus Campus staff and faculty members of the comparative literature division. The letter protested "what appears to be ... (Lawson's) arbitrary and forced resignation."

Lawson did not sign the letter, nor did six of seven division members on four regional campuses.

Lawson submitted his resignation to Adams on Nov. 20, effective Jan. 1, 1974, saying each proposal he submitted with Adams' approval was denied by the Council on Academic Affairs, headed by Kuhn.

Adams' letter states that the proposals were rejected not by Kuhn alone, but by himself, Kuhn, Lawson and others after discussion.

One of Lawson's proposals involved a program for a major in comparative literature which Adams said he rejected by agreement with Lawson because it was too "narrowly specialized."

"The point is that it was a joint decision," Adams said.

However, in an interview Lawson said Kuhn was never present with himself and Adams to discuss comparative literature.

"I have never talked directly with Albert Kuhn about comparative literature," Lawson said. "I talked with the dean, and the dean talked to the provost (Kuhn)."

"Every time they (the proposals) were returned, I was told that they were not approved by Albert Kuhn," he said.

The Lantern was unable to reach Kuhn for comment Thursday evening.

Adams said he rejected a second formal proposal made this quarter by Lawson for the "further expansion and development of programs in comparative literature."

Adams said the second proposal was an effort to define how the division of comparative literature plans to develop, what directions it wants to go and how it works to achieve its goals.

"We discussed it and I told him why it would not satisfy our needs," Adams said. "I believe that he accepted my judgment."

Lawson said the two proposals discussed in Adams letter were two of three formal proposals he made. Lawson said he sent drafts of other proposals to Adams and was told by Adams that Kuhn rejected them.

In Thursday's letter, the comparative literature faculty and staff members complained that they "have endured the loss of some of our most gifted faculty because they lack the necessary academic credentials to make our program acceptable to the Administration."

This loss was influenced by the 50 per cent decrease in enrollment suffered by the division during the past four years, Adams said.

Adams admitted similar losses have occurred in other departments as well.

"There is no reason whatever for implying that the Division of Comparative Literature is being deliberately persecuted," he stated.

Adams dismissed statements by comparative literature teachers that John Muste, professor and vice chairman of the English Department, was asked to fill the post of Lawson, whose resignation has not yet been accepted.

"There is no fact in that rumor," he said, adding that several possible replacements have been discussed between himself, the executive committee and the faculty of the division.

Adams said Lawson had told him earlier he might resign.

"I still have the resignation on my desk," he said.

Muste said he has not resigned as professor of English, nor does he intend to do so.

"I'd like to know where the hell that rumor came from," he said.
An Open Letter To

Dr. Albert J. Kuhn

FROM COMPARATIVE LITERATURE MAJORS AND OTHER CONCERNED STUDENTS
Dear Provost Kuhn:

We Comparative Literature majors and other concerned students protest the resignation of Dr. Wayne P. Lawson as Chairman of the Division of Comparative Literature and Languages. We feel that this resignation was unjustly induced by the University administration, and your office in particular. We use the term "unjustly induced" because:

1. Dr. Lawson has been given no choice but to resign in order that the programs for which he has worked so diligently, such as the proposal for the major program in Comparative Literature, might be realized. Such proposals have repeatedly been rejected by the Office of Academic Affairs. We believe Dr. Lawson to be the best advocate for his proposals, which he has submitted in our behalf. These proposals directly affect the content of our programs of study.

2. Since there is no review of or no appeal to a decision from the Office of Academic Affairs, we are using this public forum as our first recourse. It is our request that Dr. Lawson's resignation be refused, and that the Division of Comparative Literature and Languages be accorded its proper place in the College of Humanities as demanded by the numbers and quality of the students pursuing the comparative study of literature.

3. We would not like to see this type of abrupt action become a precedent in our University.
The action which prompted this resignation is not only unjust, but is a mistake as well. It is a mistake because:

1. "Personalization" of faculty-student relationships has been one of Dr. Lawson's highest aims during his Chairmanship. This is one place where we students are not "numbers". Our voices have always been heard, whether we complain, praise or make suggestions. We are asked to, and are allowed to give a great deal to the Division, and therefore we get much from it in return.

2. Other innovations which have materialized under Dr. Lawson's leadership include the annual Comparative Literature Festival, the Comparative Literature Study Tours, Faculty-Student Seminars and seventeen upper-level courses.

3. To express what a stimulating and provocative teacher he is, we need mention nothing more than that in the Spring of 1973, the Alumni Association honored Dr. Lawson with the Distinguished Teaching Award. This award is bestowed upon five faculty members each year, and only after careful review of student nominations of faculty members.

Dr. Kuhn, can you really afford to sacrifice these fine attributes and achievements for a Chairman with "more academic stature"?

Again, we request that the resignation of Dr. Wayne P. Lawson as Chairman of Comparative Literature and Languages be refused, and that he be reinstated with no negative repercussions.
Sincerely,

The Majors and other concerned students of Comparative Literature and Languages

ABBIE ALTMAN, Coordinator

If issues like this concern you, too, please sign on the dotted line and send this page immediately to your Provost:

X__________________________________________

---PAID ADVERTISING---

Albert J. Kuhn
Provost and Vice-President
Office of Academic Affairs
308 Administration Building
190 North Oval Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43210
Students confront Provost Kuhn

By Nancy S. Coleman
6 Dec 73

As Provost Albert J. Kuhn ushered the six apprehensive comparative literature students into his office he turned and said, with a faint smile, "I hope you all know you're suable."

It was only the beginning of a long, tense afternoon Wednesday.

Kuhn, chairman of the Committee on Academic Affairs, was referring to a paid student advertisement published in Monday's Lantern describing the resignation of Wayne P. Lawson, chairman of the Division of Comparative Literature, as "unjustly induced" by the University administration and "particularly Kuhn."

KUHN, red-faced, questioned the six students about the more than $500 the larger group they represented raised to place the advertisement. A seventh student, enrolled in a comparative literature course, was also there as a Lantern reporter.

"Maybe I should raise fees if students can afford an ad like that," Kuhn said with a smile.

After Kuhn's initial comments, the students sat tensely in a circle surrounding him. George P. Crepeau, associate provost, sat on one side. The Lantern reporter sat to Crepeau's right.

And so the stage was set.

THE STUDENT'S questioning concerning Lawson's controversial resignation began.

"Mr. Kuhn, perhaps there has been a lack of communication, but I'm not sure the comp. lit. students understand your feelings about Wayne Lawson's resignation. The impression we get is that it was a pressure move," said Denise Van Horn, a senior from Van Wert and spokesman for the group.

"I have no position on his resignation," Kuhn said.

"Dean Adams (Arthur E. Adams, dean of the College of Humanities and Lawson's immediate superior) is the man you should see," Van Horn asked.

"NO, NOT really. Chairmen are appointed year by year, so I'm not particularly surprised."

The students represent a group of concerned comparative literature students who are protesting Lawson's Nov. 20 resignation letter. On Friday representatives of that group met to explain their grievances to Adams. Not satisfied with his response, they sought and received an appointment with Kuhn, Adams' immediate superior.

They had prepared a list of questions agreed upon before Thursday's two-hour discussion with Kuhn. According to Abbe Altman, a junior from Columbus, and comparative literature student at the meeting, "We just want to get some answers. If Lawson was pressured into resigning, which we think he was, we owe it to ourselves to right the situation."

IN AN interview with Lawson before the students' conference with Kuhn, Lawson said that Adams was convinced that he (Lawson) didn't have enough "academic clout."

Lawson, who became acting chairman of the division in 1968 and chairman in 1970, holds a B.A. in Spanish, a M.A. in English and received his Ph.D. in theatre this fall, all from Ohio State. He was also one of the recipients of a Distinguished Teaching Award in 1973.

That Lawson's degrees all are from Ohio State poses some problems, according to Kuhn.

"The University has a policy of not hiring its own Ph.D.s as chairmen. It hurts our accreditation: It's like inbreeding. There's no fresh blood that way."

KUHN EXPLAINED the accrediting process and the importance of a diverse teaching staff in maintaining the accreditation of the program.

"If you have all Ohio State Ph.D.s we probably would never get accredited," he explained. "It would also affect the tenure of the faculty."

At this point, the students, eager to move on, passed a note among themselves urging that they should "get him off the subject and find out what happened to the proposals."

THE PROPOSALS they were curious about concerned recommendations to revise the Comparative Literature Division and to establish a major in comparative literature.

Lawson had complained earlier that his latest proposals all had been turned down, after passing through appropriate committees, and that he had ultimately rejected them.

Kuhn scooted his swivel chair to the far corner of the room when Van Horn questioned him about the proposals. Kuhn said he had seen the proposals "informally," but they had never reached the Committee on Academic Affairs, which would ultimately decide on the proposals.

"We won't accept something that won't pass the Board of Trustees," Kuhn explained. "The budget and feasibility of Lawson's proposal were all well considered. There's an internal flow to this type of thing, and if it's a shallow and duplicative program, of course it won't be passed."

AT THIS point, raising his voice, Crepeau interjected that "Lawson should stand on his own two legs and confer with the proper persons."

He was interrupted by Van Horn: "Then why hasn't Adams gotten back to Lawson and explained the failure of the proposals? Someone should at least tell him why they haven't passed."

Crepeau answered tersely: "Mr. Lawson knows better."

In an attempt to restore calm, Kuhn broke in to explain what he termed the "complex problems." He said that if Lawson's proposals were submitted it would involve "internal reallocation."

"FALLING enrollment, budgeting problems, all these things would mean that some other program would have to be dropped in favor of the comparative literature proposals," he said.

"The Humanities budget is down one quarter of a million dollars, primarily because of falling enrollment in comp. lit. The college must set priorities."

(In an open letter from Adams to Lawson printed in Friday's Lantern, Adams cited a 50 per cent drop in enrollment from 21,441 to 10,817 students.)

Van Horn cut Kuhn short and commented that she found it "rather strange that Lawson should resign in the middle of a quarter."

"The fact that there has been no explanation from you shows no consideration to students. It's a disruptive condition to work under," she continued.

CREPEAU: "Disruptive? How? Aren't your classes still meeting?"

Van Horn said that in the students' opinion Lawson's "forced" resignation did indeed create a problem. "It's a little hard to go on as if nothing had happened," she said.

Crepeau replied: "Forced is your interpretation."

Then he softened his words
by commending the students
for "being the first to come
and talk directly to us."

**TO UNDERSCORE**
Crepeau's remark about "for-
ced" interpretation, Kuhn
said emphatically, "I did not
force Wayne Lawson's
resignation."

He said that "Wayne's
(Lawson's) frustration with
the program" might have
been in the resignation.

"After all," he said consol-
ingly, "at least one chairman
resigns each month."

"Well," Van Horn asked, "is
Lawson capable of the job?"

KUHN ANSWERED, "He's
been with us for six years ...
the long-range future? I just
don't know. The question is:
Can Dean Adams find some-
one better who is more quali-
fied?

"A chairman who has been
working on his Ph.D. for six
years (Lawson just com-
pleted his doctoral work)
while trying to be an effective
administrator just has too
much to do. The state of comp.
lit. today has something to do
with his dual commitment."

When Van Horn pointed out
that Lawson's doctoral work
was now complete, Kuhn
admitted that the "leadership
should be getting better."

When Kuhn was asked if and
when Lawson's resignation
would be accepted, he said, "It
is up to Adams how he inter-
nally reallocates his
resources.

"THAT IS something that
Wayne Lawson, Adams and
his executive committee have
to work out."

Kuhn gave the same answer
to queries about a possible
successor to Lawson.

**HIS ONLY** comment con-
cerning Lawson's personal
attributes for the position
was: "Wayne Lawson is not
aggressive enough."

"This whole matter is a
complex situation because of
all the different perspectives
involved. It's oversimplified.
People take sides and the
issues get hardened. But we
are all students of humanities
— and we must remember
that there are always alter-
atives."
Comp lit students seek answers
to issues raised by Dean Adams

By Cathy Hanson

In a two hour conference with Arthur E. Adams, dean of the College of Humanities, six comparative literature students sought answers to reasons behind the resignation and rejection of proposals by Wayne P. Lawson, Chairman of the Division of Comparative Literature.

The students went to Dean Adams after Provost Albert J. Kuhn told them Wednesday, "I have no position on his (Lawson's) resignation. Dean Adams is the man you should see."

The students went into the meeting with four major questions to be answered, according to Abbe Altman, a junior from Columbus in comparative literature who attended the meeting.

QUESTIONS CENTERED around: why the rejection of proposals made by Lawson, was he pressured to resign, why the budget had been decreased for the comparative literature division and what attributed to the decrease of enrollment in the division, Altman said.

Dean Adams also invited three other faculty members to sit in on the conference to help the students understand the situation.

The faculty members were, Charles W. Hoffmann, chairman of the Circulation Committee, which reviews proposals, Stanley J. Kahril, director of the Center of Medieval and Renaissance Studies and James M. Kittelson, assoc. professor of history. A fourth faculty member joined the discussion midway through the conference, Robert G. Arms, ex-vice provost for the college of arts and sciences.

Dean Adams showed the students three agreements which he had decided on and which were submitted to him by Professor Frank Rodriguez and Professor James Brooks, acting for the Executive Committee of Comparative Literature.

THE MUTUAL agreements which both parties had decided on were:

- Wayne Lawson will be continued as Chairman of the Division of Comparative Literature and Languages, until the expiration of his contract as Chairman, June 1974.
- Professor Robert Boyer will serve as Acting Chairman during Wayne Lawson's ARD Winter Quarter, 1974.
- A search committee from within the Division, in consultation with selected faculty members from other departments, will proceed with the necessary work to find an acceptable replacement as Chairman, subject to my (Adams') final approval.

KAHRIL SAID Lawson had "done a lot of good things and has upgraded the whole division".
Lawson to stay until June '74

Comp Lit controversy 'not yet over,' students say

By Ed McGranaghan

Last quarter's conflicts between the Division of Comparative Literature and Languages and the administration are "not over," according to Abbie Altman, a junior in Columbus and comparative literature lent.

Altman, who was involved in earlier confrontations with both Arthur Adams, chairman of the College of Humanities, and Prof. Albert J. Kuhn, said she will try to set up a meeting between comparative literature lent and the educational committee of the Board of Trustees.

"The purpose of the meeting will be to let them know where we stand," Altman said.

Letter to Adams

The controversy began Autumn Quarter when Wayne Lawson, chairman of the division, resigned in a Nov. 20 letter to Adams. In the letter, Lawson cited a "lack of concern and consideration from the University administration" in regards to several programs and proposals to improve the division, including establishment of an official comparative literature major, as the reason for his resignation.

Tense Confrontation

Developing from Lawson's move was a series of accusations by administrators, faculty and students, and a tense confrontation between six comparative literature students and Kuhn, who was accused of ensuring Lawson's resignation.

A Dec. 8 letter from Adams to two members of the executive committee of the division listed three "agreements" reached the three met Dec. 5. The agreements are:

Agreements reached

- Wayne Lawson will be continued as chairman of the Division of Comparative Literature and Languages, until the expiration of his contract as chairman, June 1974.
- Robert D. Boyer, assistant professor in the division, will serve as acting chairman for part of the year.
- A search committee from within the division, in consultation with several faculty members from other departments, will proceed with the necessary work to find an acceptable replacement as chairman, subject to Adams's final approval.

Boyer said "the solution is acceptable at this point." He said the problems of the last quarter were communications problems.

"We seem to know more about the administration now," he said.

Tentative plan

Boyer said a tentative plan for the future direction of the Division of Comparative Literature and Languages, including a major program, has been submitted to Adams.

He also said the search committee has been established and there has been some interviewing for a permanent chairman.

"None of us are happy with Lawson's leaving," Boyer said, "but given circumstances..."

Altman, however, said the problem was more than a lack of communication.

Referring to the "agreements" of the Adams' letter, Altman said, "We're happy he's been given a stay of execution."

"We think Wayne (Lawson) is the backbone of the division," she said. "When they take him they rip out the spine of the division."

Altman, discussing faculty and budget cuts, said she thought the administration was still trying to "cut" the department.

Fernando Rodriguez, assistant professor in the division and one of the members of the executive committee, agreed that last quarter's conflicts resulted from "a lack of communication" between the administration and the division.

"What's important is that the channels of communication are open now," he said.

"Right now we are functioning quite well," Rodriguez said. "We are meeting with the dean (Adams) and things are progressing."

"Critical" quarter

He did say that the coming quarter would be "critical" in terms of the administration's acceptance of the division's proposals.

Rodriguez said the decision to keep Lawson on as chairman until June was reached with Lawson's agreement.

Lawson could not be reached for comment.

Adams would not be specific about whether an academic major would be established in the division, but said "we hope to have something done with it."
Major program' pushed for Comp lit division

By Ed McGranaghan

Five students from the Division of Comparative Literature and Languages met Saturday with six University administrators, including President Harold L. Enarson and Provost Albert J. Kuhn, to "try to push a major program" for the division, according to one of the students.

Enarson, Kuhn, and the students met with the Educational Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Abbe Altman, a junior from Columbus, said the students wanted to "put in a plug for the division in case anything comes before them (the trustees)."

Autumn Quarter's conflicts between the division and the administration were ignited by the resignation of Wayne Lawson, chairman of the division, who cited a "lack of concern and consideration from the University administration" regarding several programs and proposals to improve the division.

Altman said the students have decided to focus on the establishment of a formal major in comparative literature rather than on Lawson's "pressured" resignation.

"We just went there to keep the channels open," Altman said. "We appreciate them letting us talk to them."

The students presented a statement to the committee. It discussed "the addition of number of upper-level courses" to the division, and said, "We feel that the next step is the creation of a formal comparative literature major to solidify the division's position in the College of Humanities."

Although reporters were not permitted in the meeting, Altman said "Kuhn brought up the enrollment hassle again when we brought up the subject of the major program."

Kuhn later told the Lantern the 50 per cent enrollment drop in the division over the past four years was a factor, but the "central question" concerned "the very nature of trying to define a comparative literature major."

Kuhn stressed that a major program would have to relate to other academic areas and was a matter up to the College of Humanities and not "a handful of students."

He said that a faculty-student committee is now at work "looking at what the major should be."

Altman said she is "still very pessimistic" about the establishment of a major program in the division.

"I think that since it's our major, students deserve a much larger voice," she said. "It's the students' major they are passing judgment on."
Comp Lit head returns to honor contract

By Judi Blevins

Wayne Lawson didn't expect to be back as chairman of the Division of Comparative Literature by Spring Quarter. But he is, and he's making the best of his "forced" return.

Lawson became center of a much-publicized controversy last November when he submitted his resignation to Arthur E. Adams, dean of the College of Humanities, effective January 1, 1974. Lawson charged that programs proposed for his division had received a "lack of concern and consideration from the University administration."

Major program

Since beginning his chairmanship in 1970, Lawson had concentrated his efforts chiefly on having comparative literature instituted as a major program. Toward that end he had submitted three or four proposals for a major program and six or eight for curriculum changes during the past three years. All were rejected by the Office of Academic Affairs.

Reasons given for the rejections included complaints that corresponding courses already existed in the College of Humanities, that the division failed to offer literary works in their native languages, and that Comparative Literature had inadequate faculty for a major program.

Frustrated

Frustrated, the 32-year-old Lawson thought perhaps a chairman with "more academic stature" was needed to get the division's programs approved. And so he resigned.

But chairmen can't get away so easily. Lawson was told he must remain in his position until June 30, when his contract as chairman expires.

Popular cause

Lawson's cause has proved popular. Shortly after he resigned, several student groups met individually with Ohio State administrators to push a major program for the division. Comparative literature staff members published in the December 3 Lantern full-page letter to Provost Albert J. Kuhn, protesting the causes of Lawson's resignation.

Similar efforts continued after Lawson left, with Adams' permission, to do research during Winter Quarter. Most important, a Comparative Literature Curriculum Committee was formed to review and redefine the division's objectives.

Communications opened

Lawson returned last month, optimistic regarding the dispute that followed his resignation.

"Because of it," he said, "communication lines were opened, four people with excellent publishing credentials were hired for the next academic year, and people became really aware of comparative literature ... the administration showed a willingness to develop the curriculum."

Although Lawson won't be chairman much longer, his enthusiasm for the comparative literature program doesn't seem to be lagging. Early this month he submitted for approval three courses which he believes are essential to broaden the scope of the division and help it qualify for a major program.

Reasons for returning

"I came back for this quarter (as chairman) trying to keep together the whole idea of a very exciting program in literature that was started many years ago. I want to spend the weeks I have left doing all I can to make it go," he said.

"I don't want to leave the division without some kind of positive feelings," Lawson added.

Remains confident

He realizes comparative literature still must contend with hours requirements, as well as being careful not to step into areas covered by other humanities programs. But he's confident the determination of division members will overcome these obstacles.

Lawson will leave his chairmanship June 30, but not the division. There's still another contract — one that says he must continue teaching at Ohio State through Summer Quarter.
Weinberg
decision:

Legality affirmed
in contract refusal

By Thomas Anthony

The University acted legally in refusing to offer Sanford M. Weinberg, a former instructor in the Division of Comparative Literature and Languages, a new contract, stated a court ruling handed down Monday.

Weinberg contended the University refused to grant him tenure and a new contract in 1976 for the current academic year because of his civil rights activities and his role in an intradepartmental fight in the Division of Comparative Literature and Languages.

Weinberg alleged that Arthur E. Adams, dean of the College of Humanities, and Thomas Woodson, chairman of the Division of Comparative Literature and Languages, sought to have him dismissed because he led a group opposing their administration of the department.

FRANKLIN COUNTY Common Pleas Court Judge George E. Tyack's ruling says that Adams and Woodson "have not acted wilfully or maliciously as claimed" by Weinberg. The ruling states that all University parties "have acted within the scope of their authority in good faith."

Tyack, who heard the case in December, says in his ruling that Weinberg "is not and never has been a tenured member of the faculty at the Ohio State University." Tyack ruled that during the four years Weinberg did work under regular contract he had only the "hope" of attaining tenure and that during the four years he worked under regular contract, he was not guaranteed tenure or further employment. Under University rules, a probationary employee like Weinberg on regular contract is subject to a formal review after four years to determine if he is being considered as a candidate for tenure.

In 1974, Weinberg was reviewed by a committee appointed by Woodson to review faculty considered candidates for tenure. Tyack ruled that the committee acted properly in recommending Weinberg not be a candidate for tenure.

Another claim made by Weinberg in the trial was that the Board of Trustees must act on all financial matters concerned with the University and that the non-renewal of his contract was a financial matter. But Tyack ruled that the tenure regula-

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WEINBERG SAID he was quite disappointed by the decision and said it "seems to me to be unjust." He said his attorneys will have to examine avenues of appeal.

It might be financially impossible to try an appeal, Weinberg said. In what Weinberg called an "unconscionable" move, Tyack ruled that Weinberg must pay all costs of the trial. Weinberg said that in his ten years at Ohio State, his salary was never more than $10,000 a year and that having spent several thousand dollars in legal fees already, he may not be able to afford an appeal.

JACOB E. DAVIS, attorney for Ohio State, expressed pleasure at the decision and said the 18-page ruling showed that Tyack had given the matter his fullest attention. He said he could not comment on any specifics of the case because it is still in litigation until an appeal is filed or the time limit for filing an appeal passes.

Weinberg is currently serving as director of the Project for Food Action and Community Education.