Ames Daily Tribune

Volume 104-No. 286

Ames, Iowa, Monday, June 7, 1971

Ten Cents

NOW files against ISU

A formal charge of discrimination was filed against Iowa State University today by the Ames chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). The complaint was filed with the Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCC) of the U.S. Department of Labor.

In filing the charge, NOW asked the OFCC to institute an immediate "class action" and compliance review for all units of the university. "Class action" means investigation will be made on the basis of a pattern of sex discrimination through the university, rather than on the basis of individual complaints.

Claims Pattern 'Evident'

NOW has also asked that all current contract negotiations between the university and the Federal government be suspended, until a plan of affirmative action is put into effect by the university.

In announcing filing of the charge, Judy Ritts, acting president of the local chapter of NOW, said "The pattern of discrimination is evident in every aspect of university activity—recruitment hiring, promotion, funding and salaries. Since nearly all women faculty are concentrated at the lower levels of academic rank, there can be no shortage of women available for promotion to high rank."

A recent survey showed 80 per cent of the female faculty is assistant professor or below while only 48 per cent of the male faculty is in that category, she said.

Defends ISU
Carl Hamilton, vice president of

Iowa State, said the university administration had been "studying the matter all year and had issued a 'white paper' statement May 20."

A report on that statement was published in The Tribune May 24, said an investigation of comparative salaries of men and women faculty members found "no apparent pattern of salary discrimination."

"This is not to say there is no sex discrimination present," the report said, "but at worst it is suggested only in a few isolated situations; there is no evidence of any general pattern of that sort."

Allocation of funds for instruction also show discrimination, Mrs. Ritts

Please see NOW, page eight