

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Working on Land Rights for the Rural Poor 1966-Present

INFORMATION ONLY

Roy L. Prosterman, Founder and Chair Emeritus of the Rural Development Institute (RDI) and Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of Washington, is a pioneering social entrepreneur and expert on land reform, rural development and foreign aid.

Through the organization he founded in 1967, the Rural Development Institute, Prosterman has provided over 40 years of research, policy advisory, technical assistance, teaching and public education experience in the international development-law field to more than 45 countries. Prosterman's work has focused on the often neglected area of rural development and has encompassed legal and policy aspects of land tenure reform, land market development and other rural development issues. He has received numerous awards and distinctions, including the Gleitsman International Activist Award, Schwab Foundation Outstanding Global Social Entrepreneur and the inaugural Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership where he was lauded by Bill Gates Sr. as a "champion for the world's poor." Prosterman and RDI have also been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, World Food Prize and Hilton Humanitarian Award. Prosterman is a frequent guest speaker and presenter at world forums on poverty and economic security and has published extensively. His most recent book (with co-authors and editors Robert Mitchell & Tim Hanstad) is One Billion Rising: Law, Land, and the Alleviation of Global Poverty.