# THE OPEN SYSTEMS UNIVERSITY

**J. S. Counelis, School of Education and Office of Institutional Studies in the University of San Francisco, California 94117, (U.S.A.)**

The purpose of this paper is to render a systematic, thoretical and empirically documented understanding of the university as an organizational guild actor and guild reactor within a larger human environment. It is inten-

ded that this paper begins a systematic conceptual and interdisciplinary attempt to fill a significant lacuna in the organizational theory literature on the university as a guild.

Comprehensively, systems theory represents the university guild in an open energy systems analogue. Von Foerster's well known feedback model illustrates well the university guild's cybernetic system of organizational intelligence as conceptualized by Wilensky. Two generic symbolic propositional models for organizational intelligence are introduced and integrated within the von Foerster feedback system as it is applied to the university guild.

Prigogine's equation, *viz.*, $dS = d_eS + d_iS$, describes exceptionally well in thermodynamic terms the university guild's input activity of material resources, students, faculty, support service personnel and ideas and the university guild's output or productivity in educated and trained manpower, service, social criticism, and research results. To govern the open systems university, an axiological model in generic symbolic propositional form is integrated within the von Foerster framework of the university guild. Comprehensive documentation from actual university live operations is presented in partial validation of the open systems university as guild.