

MINUTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING
of the
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
October 19, 1972

Present: President Wharton, Trustees Carrigan, Hartman, Huff, Martin, Merriman, and Stevens; Provost Cantlon, Executive Vice President and Secretary Breslin, Vice Presidents Muelder, Nonnamaker, Perrin, Scott and Wilkinson; Messrs. Ballard and Carr; and Dr. Wilkie.

Absent: Trustees Thompson and White

Preliminary
Report of
President's
Task Force on
Lifelong
Learning

President Wharton opened the informal meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:35 p.m. He announced that the only major presentation before the Board would concern the President's Task Force on Lifelong Learning. He briefly reviewed the activities of the Task Force leading up to its preliminary report which had been previously distributed to the Trustees. Dr. Wharton indicated that the basic questions which faced the Task Force were:

- Does MSU have a role in lifelong education?
- What should this role be in terms of public service, instruction and research and development?
- What are our special competencies and what should be our priorities?
- What resources are needed and available to perform this role in terms of finances, manpower, and faculty?
- What internal structures and external relationships are necessary to achieve our objective in terms of lifelong learning?

Dr. Wilkie introduced the selected members of the Task Force present: Ed Rothman, George McIntyre, Dr. Richard Chapin, Dr. Mildred Erickson, Dr. Armand Hunter, and James C. Votruba, a Presidential Fellow. Dr. Wilkie opened the discussion to questions from the Board.

In response to a question from Trustee Merriman, Dr. Wilkie indicated that the Task Force has not involved outside people to a great degree due to the fact that the University must first make a determination as to what its role might be in lifelong learning before it could really discuss it with other organizations off campus. Dr. Chapin pointed out that one of the serious problems which affect the local community is the fact that at the present time a person can't complete the requirements for an undergraduate degree by going to evening and weekend classes at MSU.

Dr. Wilkie indicated that it has become clear to the Task Force that there are three basic roles open to Michigan State University in the area of lifelong learning: developing programs within the University; training professionals to help in the development of such programs at MSU and other institutions; and providing research and development activities in lifelong learning.

Activities of
Continuing
Education
Service
reviewed

Dr. Hunter presented a brief review on the MSU Continuing Education Service. He outlined the types of continuing education services and programs including both on-campus and off-campus activities. He added that all the University's off-campus continuing education programs are self-supporting, while pointing out that in total there is about a 50-50 breakdown of self-supporting to general fund monies involved in all MSU continuing education programs.

In response to a question from Trustee Hartman regarding the future of the MSU Continuing Education Service, Dr. Hunter indicated that no one knew at this time what the formal structure for lifelong learning would be. As a further response, Provost Cantlon stated that the University was not about to dismantle a going program like the Continuing Education Service. He did add that in the long run it was hoped that the individual colleges and academic departments would be able to assume some of the activities currently handled by the Continuing Education Service. There was general agreement, however, that there would be a continuing need for off-campus centers and an administrative organization to operate them.

In response to a question regarding the current practice of charging higher fees for off-campus courses, Dr. Cantlon mentioned that court decisions in Michigan regarding out-of-state tuition fees may also have a bearing on off-campus fees. He saw the need for greater work in the Michigan Legislature aimed toward changing the current requirement that off-campus courses be self-supported by higher student fees. President Wharton added that efforts are currently under way by the Michigan Council of State College Presidents in gathering information concerning the volume and types of courses offered off campus by Michigan colleges and universities.

Dr. Wilkie reported that the Task Force plans to hold two more on-campus and probably two off-campus hearings in the near future before the formal report on lifelong learning is written. He indicated that further off-campus input might take place following the Task Force's formal report.

President Wharton adjourned the Informal Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 9:25 p.m.