

Selection document examined

The presidential selection procedure, which ended its Academic Council run Jan. 10 after five appearances, will take the stage again Jan. 26-27 before a new group of critics—the Board of Trustees.

“Procedure for Selecting the President of the University,” which was prepared by a 6-person ad hoc committee working with two trustees, debuted in council on Nov. 29, 1977, but its audience demanded four encores before unanimously approving an amended version.

As it now stands, without board review, the 20-page document details the formulation and function of the 17-member “Search and Selection Committee Advisory to the Board of Trustees on the Appointment of a President.” Basically, this advisory committee is to advertise the position, discover sources of nominations, solicit and assemble nominations, assist the board in screening nominations and develop a recommended list of candidates.

The composition of the committee is specified as two trustees, the chairperson of the Steering Committee; seven members of the regular faculty, including one non-tenured member; one academic administrator at or above the level of dean; four students; one non-faculty, full-time employee; and an alumnus or alumna. The document states, however, that “the University is not an aggregation of sectional interests” and charges each member of the advisory committee “to represent the University as a whole.”

The document also states that the intent is for the advisory committee to “include women, minorities, and so far as possible the wide range of disciplines and programs in the University.” To this end, the groups selecting the members of the advisory committee are instructed, “without respect to quotas, seek to include women and minorities in the slate of candidates.”

The chairperson of the advisory committee is to be elected by the committee from among the elected faculty members on the committee.

In general, advisory committee meetings are to be open, but the document permits closure when individual nominees or candidates are discussed (names are considered confidential) and “at such other times when, in the committee’s judgment, it is necessary in order to carry out the committee’s mission on behalf of the University.” The advisory committee is instructed, so far as possible, to publicly announce in advance any part of its deliberations in which closure is essential.

The document also states that the advisory committee “shall respect the board’s sense of practical urgency and shall limit its deliberations to those that are indispensably necessary in order to

conclude its offices within the limit of time which the board has established.”

Screening of nominations is to be deferred, however, until the advisory committee produces a job-description “capable of being used in comparing the relative merits of nominees, qualifying some and disqualifying others, according to the objective demands of the position,” as agreed upon by the advisory committee and the board.

The object of the screening is to reduce the total number of nominees on the “active list” to a “recommended list” of at

least three but not more than five. This list, non-ranked and alphabetized is to be sent to the board and the advisory committee “shall not, unless asked by the board, declare a preference.”

The intention, according to the document, is that the board shall appoint a person from the recommended list. But the document includes a provision that the board may request the advisory committee to reconsider its list if recommended candidates withdraw “or if the board desires further consideration of candidates on the active list.”

Right to die subject for theologian May

A leading theologian and noted educator, William F. May will address MSU medical students and faculty on “The Right to Die” on Monday, Jan. 23. The seminar at the Life Sciences auditorium will begin at 12:30 p.m.

The seminar is part of the College of Human Medicine Symposium Series and

sponsored jointly by MSU’s Humanities Program and the Department of Surgery.

Chairman of religious studies at Indiana University from 1966 to 1976, May is a *magna cum laude* graduate (1952) of Yale Divinity School and in 1962 received the Ph.D. in contemporary theology from Yale University. He completed undergraduate work at Princeton where he majored in history in a special humanities program.

Widely published and a popular speaker, he gave the 1975 presidential address at the American Academy of Religion on “Institutions as Symbols of Death” and lectured at national meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on “Death and Dying — The Concept of Natural Death as An Ideal in the Medical Professions” and “The Right to Die vs. the Right To Be Dead.”

May has conducted several humanities seminars for medical practitioners at Williams College and Stanford University.

Recently he worked at New York Hospital to observe delivery of health care in various settings and as author of resulting papers on “The Right to Die and the Obligation to Care” and “Some Notes on the Ethics of Lawyers and Doctors.”

May is past president of the American Academy of Religion, a director of the Society for Values in Higher Education and co-chairman of the work group on death and dying of the Institute for Society, Ethics, and the Life Sciences. He is a member of the Indiana Committee for the Humanities, a former advisor to the Kennedy Foundation and a past member of the Advisory council of Princeton University’s department of religion.

Deaths

HAROLD R. JOLLIFFE

Word has been received that Professor Emeritus Harold R. Jolliffe, 72, a member of the MSU faculty from 1949 until his retirement in 1969, died Jan. 6 in Dunedin, Fla.

Jolliffe, a professor of journalism, was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and received his bachelor’s degree from Queens University (Ontario) in 1924.

In 1949 he came to MSU as a professor of journalism, later serving also as a professor of communication arts.

Jolliffe spent summers from 1945 through 1958 on the copy desk of the Detroit Free Press and the Washington Star. In 1960, he established a school of journalism at the University of Kabul, Afghanistan, and wrote a journalism textbook in Persian.

Another book, *Tales from the Greek Drama* in which he rewrote 10 outstanding Greek plays in the form of modern short stories, was published in 1962.

He was a member of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic society, Association for Education in Journalism and the American Association of University Professors.

His widow, Margaret, survives.