

# Presidential selection discussed

How trustees will deal with the list of presidential candidates submitted to them by the presidential search and selection advisory committee was the subject of some discussion at the Board of Trustees meeting Friday.

Chairwoman Patricia Carrigan-Strickland, also a member of the advisory committee, called for the inclusion of the trustees-elect, following the Nov. 7 election, in any discussions or interviews with candidates.

Trustees had no objection, but Trustee Michael Smydra raised questions about naming a president before Jan. 2 when new board members could vote on the selection. "I think it would be unfair for the new president to be functioning with a board, come Jan. 1, one fourth of which did not have a vote, not merely a voice, but a vote, in the selection," Smydra said.

Carrigan-Strickland called the concern legitimate, but unlikely. "I would hope we would all be in unanimous accord," she said.

Trustee John Bruff pointed out that President Harden made clear his wish to leave. "If we know before Jan. 1 who we want, we should announce before Jan. 1" Bruff said. He added that a new president might have other obligations and be unable to take the position for several months.

President Harden called the presidential decision, "the most important" trustees could ever make. "Having selected him," the president advised, "support him until you can't support him and then fire him and get another one. You can't have everyone administering a university," he continued. "You just must come to grips with the fact that the board makes policy and the administration should either implement it or have someone else there who will."

Bruff, also a member of the advisory committee, said that the chairman of that committee, Robert Barker, would contact trustees when the final list of at least five candidates was complete.

Barker has said his committee will make its report on or before the deadline of Dec. 1. As the process winds down, Barker said it has gone "very well, not just well. I'm extremely pleased with how the committee members have responded to the tremendous demands placed on them," Barker said.