

6 named to conduct search

A 6-person committee to continue the search for a new MSU president was established by the Board of Trustees at monthly meeting Friday.

In a 7-1 vote, with Trustee Aubrey Radcliffe dissenting, the board passed a resolution authorizing the committee to continue the search process and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for appointment of a president "in accordance with the criteria agreed upon by the board and the search and selection committee." The committee's authority is not to continue beyond June 30 unless extended by the board.

Members of the committee are John Bruff, board chairman; Jack Stack, trustee; Blanche Martin, trustee; Robert Barker, chairman of the search and selection advisory committee; Gwendolyn Norrell, vice-chairman of the advisory committee; and Lester Manderscheid, advisory committee member and chairman of the Steering Committee.

Creation of the new committee was spurred by recent unauthorized release of confidential and privileged information regarding presidential nominees. Last week the advisory committee temporarily suspended its activities until the board took action "to insure responsible and confidential behavior on the part of its members, as well as on the part of other participants in the selection process."

Bruff said that in addition to protecting confidentiality, the smaller group should greatly expedite the review process and present the larger bodies with concise recommendations and supporting material.

In another related resolution Friday, the board designated Trustee Carole Lick to serve as a voting member on the advisory committee. She replaces Patricia Carrigan-Strickland whose term as trustee expired in December.

In his report, President Edgar L.

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Harden commented on the breaches of confidentiality in the presidential selection process. "It appears to me that these leaks have occurred with malicious intent on the part of the person or persons involved," he said. "I urge the board to use every legal means at its disposal to identify the person or persons involved and subject them to the ridicule and criticism that he, she or they deserve."

In an effort to put the 16 months since the selection process began in perspective, Harden said he would like to "leak" some information about positive developments at MSU.

Among other items he cited that MSU enrolled 429 National Merit Scholars fall term, more than any other public university; that MSU is among the top ten universities in the number of National Science Foundation student grants for 1978-79; that MSU scientists annually receive more than 1,000 grants totaling \$28 million for sponsored research projects; and that for the first time in history MSU tops the governor's list of recommended allocations for 1979-80 appropriations to state institutions of higher education.

In closing Harden urged "those who would try to destroy this University to leave it in the hands of those many people who love it."