

Sawyer meets with Steering on search process

Trustee Chairperson Barbara Sawyer met briefly with Steering Committee members yesterday morning to present a search and selection procedure for the next president of MSU.

The procedure was forwarded by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Board after a four-hour trustee meeting Monday night called to hear a report from consultants Ronald S. Stead and Frederic W. Ness of the Presidential Search and Assessment Service of Washington, D.C.

The recommended procedure will go to Faculty Council Tuesday as an information item and to Academic Council next Thursday as an action item.

The consultants had suggested a search committee of three trustees, three faculty members, one dean, one alumnus or alumna, and one student. The board ad hoc committee has instead recommended a 13-member committee composed of all eight trustees, two tenured faculty members, one academic administrator at or above the level of dean, one student and one alumnus or alumna.

"I do feel strongly about the need for the full board to be involved," Sawyer told Steering Committee members. "The

credibility of the selection hinges on the credibility of the process that brought us to that point."

"Most people will understand the tradeoff (adding four trustees to the selection committee but cutting one faculty member)," said Mordechai Kreinin, professor of economics. "After all, we're looking for a situation where the president would have the backing of the full board."

Sawyer said the full board is tentatively planning to meet May 19 if Academic Council adopts the procedure at its May 17 meeting.

She asked that constituent groups submit their slate of selection committee candidates to the full board as quickly as possible so the board might take action at its June 7-8 meeting.

"The slate must take into concern affirmative action," Sawyer said. "We expect each constituent group to reflect that in its nominees."

"The two things to emphasize are academic distinction and affirmative action," said Kreinin of faculty nominees, who must also be tenured.

Milton Steinmueller, professor of resource development, raised the issue of compensation for search committee

members, especially for academic year faculty members, who are not salaried during the summer.

"If the recommendation is that faculty, staff, students and alumni ought to be compensated for their time, I think it certainly ought to be discussed, at least, by the board," said Provost Lee Winder. Kreinin said compensation should extend to board members, too.

Steering Committee Chairperson Larry Sommers reminded the group that it would be setting a precedent if it recommended committee compensation.

"There are a lot of chairpersons of campus committees who are spending a lot of time (on University issues) and not being reimbursed for it."

At its Monday meeting, the Steering Committee set the agenda for next Tuesday's Faculty Council meeting. Items include: a nominations report from the University Committee on Academic Governance; the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities document; the Hearing Procedures for Dismissal for Cause document; and the Presidential Search and Selection Process.

Faculty nominations sought for search committee

Faculty nominations for the Search Committee Advisory to the Board of Trustees on the Appointment of a President are solicited and should be sent no later than May 22 to the Secretary for Academic Governance, 308 Olds Hall.

Nominees must be tenured faculty members.

The University Committee on Academic Governance will develop a slate of six nominees to be submitted to Faculty Council at a meeting tentatively scheduled for May 24.