



CAMPUS UPDATE

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Board of Trustees Meets Thursday Night

Will Decide on Forestry/Athletics

On Thursday, January 19, the Board of Trustees of Alpena Community College will meet in possibly one of the most important sessions in college history.

On their agenda will be two hot issues currently rocking ACC; the fate of the Forestry program, and the fate of the athletics program.

The Forestry program is being considered for elimination because of declining enrollments in the program. In the past several years, enrollment in the program fell from approximately 90 students to just over 20. This, according to sources close to the issue, is because recruiting was eliminated from the college budget several years ago which makes the out of district enrollment nearly zero. According to this source, the return of recruiting for the program would mean the Forestry program's almost guaranteed success.

Another idea which has been brought up recently is the change of curriculum in the Forestry program to add more agriculture and landscaping courses which would transfer to a larger four year school. It is the belief of some that many local students would come to this college for at least one year and transfer elsewhere, after getting some basic courses out of the way. Agriculture is a big business in northern Michigan, and if local interest could be generated in such a revised program, the benefits for ACC could be great. But now the decision is up to the Board of Trustees. Whether to pay heed to the current numbers and figures and eliminate the program, or save the program and see that changes are made to try and reverse its backward motion. The decision will be made Thursday night.

Another issue the Board must deal with at their meeting is the ongoing question of the reinstitution of varsity athletics at the college.

The Student Senate has conducted several polls of student opinion on the subject and, crude as they may be, all seem to come up with the same result. Students favor it's return on an overwhelming basis, and are willing to pay for it. But whether this is enough to allow the Board to make the proper decision on the issue remains to be seen at the Thursday night board meeting.

The Student Senate is urging all students to attend this very important meeting to voice opinions on these two important issues which will greatly affect this college.

The board will meet in room 450 of the Natural Resources Building at 7:30 PM.

Student Senate Conducts Athletics Poll

For the past several months, the Student Senate of Alpena Community College has been dealing with the question of the reinstatement of varsity athletics at this institution.

Their main question is, "Do the students actually want an athletics program?"

Well, through another gallant effort on their part, the Senate has conducted another poll, using the Administration's figures as to how much money would be paid by each student to support an athletics program.

Late last week and early this week, the Senate manned polling stations at two locations around campus with a simple yes or no question. "Do you support reinstatement of varsity athletics at this college based on a fee of \$12.50 per semester for full time students, and \$7.50 per semester for part time students?" A student activity fee in this amount would raise the needed \$30,000 to run the program.

As of Monday evening, about 260 students had been polled and 83 percent of those favored it's return based on those figures. The main question that students had was which sports would be enacted. A total of five programs would be enacted for the 1984-85 year including men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, and men's golf. There is also the possibility of other sports programs being offered further down the road, if there is an interest. However, five are needed now to allow A.C.C. back into inter-collegiate competition.

The important thing to note is that this fee is not a hike in tuition, but is a student activity fee which is exactly what it implies; money for student oriented activities.

The figures garnered by this latest poll will undoubtedly be presented to the Board of Trustees at their meeting on January 19, where they will decide the fate of the athletics program once and for all.

Casino \$ Night

The Campus Activities Board has unveiled plans for the first Casino Night of the year to be held on Wednesday, January 25, at the Holiday Inn Holidome.

According to CAB chairman Scott Fowler, this year's Casino Night is guaranteed to be a success. Nearly five hundred dollars in prizes are to be given away to the lucky winners that night including a stereo system, camera, Ghetto Blaster, clock radios, and many other valuable prizes. Also, door prizes will be given away every fifteen minutes throughout the night.

The games available to the gamblers will be black jack, roulette, craps, poker, chuck-a-luck, and wheel games. Students are reminded that this activity is free and are encouraged to attend.

"Casino Nights are always the most successful events on campus during the year," Fowler said.

So find your lucky rabbits foot and put Casino Night on your calendar. YOU could be the big winner!

Children's Lit Class Offered

by Kevin R. Schalkofski

Although it has been around for a while, the Children's Literature course at ACC has never been in the limelight.

The class, currently being taught by Judy Stillion, provides second semester freshmen and sophomores with a better understanding of the development and uses of Children's Literature. Also, students learn modern methods of analysis of both fiction and non-fiction prose as well as poetry.

Approximately 12 students are enrolled in the class which provides three required credits to students majoring in the education field.

Judy Stillion is a librarian at the Alpena County Library.

Sign Language Course Offered

by Julie Taylor

26 students are enrolled in Sign Language 120 offered Tuesday evenings this semester at ACC.

The course, according to instructor Patricia Stark, is designed for the family members of the hearing impaired, those who may deal with the hearing impaired through their careers, and those who have a general interest in the language.

The course is not, however, recommended for those with impaired hearing because of its fast pace.

Stark reassures that those interested need no prior instruction to enroll in Sign Language I. She also guarantees that those who complete the two consecutive sign language courses will use the finger alphabet and the signs for words, phrases, and sentences effectively.

As instructor of the hearing impaired in Alpena's Intermediate School District, Patricia Stark should prove to be an excellent sign language instructor.