



CAMPUS UPDATE

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Education Commission Releases Report

The Governor's Commission on the Future of Higher Education today released an 80 page progress report stating that the present higher education system in Michigan is spread too thin and action must be taken to preserve and enhance its quality.

"Michigan's higher education enterprise is a great system, but it is in jeopardy. It is in desperate need of more careful targeting of its efforts and resources to maximize scarce dollars and respond to future needs," stated Chairman James K. Robinson. "The long term well-being of Michigan and the future of our higher education system are inextricably intertwined."

He stated, "In order to make the most of scarce dollars and respond to future needs of Michigan's citizens, colleges and universities must be systematically downsized. However, even with this action, the closing of certain schools cannot be precluded over the next 16 years unless rigorous action is taken to make all institutions more responsive and streamlined."

The report also said that a strategic planning mechanism is absolutely necessary to accomplish these goals. The report said, however, that a single or governing body or "Superboard" is neither "politically practical nor administratively prudent."

The Commission will consider recommending administrative mergers, program consolidations and eliminations, establishment of consortias and more clearly defined roles and missions for each institution, Robinson said.

The Commission urged all institutions to establish an immediate moratorium on significant new programs until a better statewide review process is in place. The Governor previously announced a capital outlay moratorium which the Commission recommended be continued.

Although studies show a substantial maintenance and equipment problem for universities and colleges, priorities need to be established before final recommendations can be made.

The report details the spiraling cost of college tuition, noting that Michigan has one of the highest

average tuition rates in the nation.

"The Commission is committed to finding ways to hold tuition rates down. Many students and their families are now heavily mortgaging their futures to get an education," the chairman said.

The Commission recognizes a need for statewide coordination to ensure cooperation between Michigan's higher education institutions. At the present time, Michigan has the most autonomous system of higher education in the nation.

"During the past decade, there has been little effort to work together. The recent tough economic times have made our colleges and universities even more competitive among themselves," Robinson said.

He said the progress report is based on two conclusions -- that state financial support will remain relatively static the next 16 years and that enrollment at universities and colleges will decline at least ten percent overall. This projection assumes policy makers will take aggressive action to increase the participation of older students and minorities and will work in partnership with industry to offer more job training programs.

The Commission underlined the importance of a high quality K-12 education and supported several recommendations of a recent State Board of Education report. The commission also stressed a commitment to increasing the quality of undergraduate instruction through competency tests, a core of basic required courses and strengthening of faculty. Concern was expressed over the present decline in minority enrollment and the need to recruit and train minority faculty and staff.

In the area of economic development, the Commission called for postsecondary institutions to encourage spinoff industries through innovative research and to resolve conflict of interest rules that hinder the transfer of technology. Because research at the cutting edge is critical to this effort, an inventory of the state's research efforts was proposed to target resources and secure cooperation of institutions to attract more federal research and development funds.

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Law Enforcement Students Tour State Facilities

by Michelle Hamilton

Fifteen ACC Law Enforcement students recently went on a field trip to our state capital, Lansing, and toured many of Lansing's law related establishments and educational institutions on March 28, 29, and 30.

The club began their tour at the Lansing Police Department and were guided through the records, communications and identification departments by their host, Police Captain Baylis. They were also able to see the new patrol car which has a computerized terminal that ties into Michigan's Law Enforcement Information Network and also ties into the National Crime Network or FBI in Washington, D.C. The computerized terminal is a new development and Lansing is one of the few places that have it.

The Law Enforcement students then proceeded to the Capital Building where they viewed a Senate Session with Representative John Pridnia and Senator Connie Binsfeld. The students received official recognition from Senator Binsfeld and joined Representative Pridnia and his office staff for lunch afterward.

Following lunch they proceeded to the Steven Mason Building where their host Beverly Perry guided them through the Department of Natural Resources offices. The students were then able to witness the role of the DNR and its Conservation Officers and their involvement with hunting and environmental controls.

The final step of the day brought them to Michigan State University. With host Dennis Banas the students reviewed the Criminal Justice Program and the requirements for students wishing to transfer to this institution.

They began the following day with a visit to the Michigan State Police Crime Lab in East Lansing. With hosts Lieutenant George Hein and Sergeant Malcolm Hall they went over the forensics for all that goes on in the crime lab.

Their final stop was the MSP Training Complex and Secondary Institution and their host was Lieutenant Bernie Schrader. Although they were unable to witness any of the actual training that goes

on in this institution, they were able to tour the dorms, swimming pool, gymnasium, classrooms, library, shooting range, and become aware of the many different groups that come here for some sort of formal education.

Spring Fling Plans Underway

by Marti Hurford

The annual Alpena Community College's Spring Fling has been scheduled for April 27-29, 1984.

Anthony Terry and Scott Fowler of the Campus Activity Board released the following tentative schedule of events:

Friday, April 27, 1984 - First round of the Co-ed Softball Tournament followed by a Sadie Hawkins dance from 9:00 p.m. till 1:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 28, 1984 - Second round of the Co-ed Softball Tournament followed by a game of flag football between fierce arch-rivals, "The Townies" and "The Dormies".

The piece de resistance of the Spring Fling will be the Pig Roast followed by a bonfire on Saturday evening.

Sunday, April 29, 1984 - the championship Co-ed Softball game.

All of the above events are free to the ACC student body. Location for the games and dance was still undetermined when the Campus Update went to press. Watch the Splinter for specific times and locations.

New S S Treasurer For 84-85

by Sandra Suszek

The Student Senate at ACC was to hold another election on April 5th and 6th for the office of Treasurer. Being that only one person ran for the office, the election was not held.

The person who ran for the position, Matt Parcels, will hold the office for the 84-85 school year.