

1980

# Board of Regents Meeting Materials, December 14, 1980

Eastern Michigan University

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EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Official Minutes of the Board of Regents' meeting of December 14, 1980

Board members present:

Richard N. Robb, Chairman  
James T. Barnes, Jr., Linda D. Bernard, Warren L. Board, Timothy J. Dyer, Dolores A. Kinzel, Beth W. Milford and Carleton K. Rush

Administration present:

President John W. Porter  
Vice Presidents: Anthony H. Evans, Gary D. Hawks, Robert J. Romkema, Laurence N. Smith and Carolyn D. Spatta

Chairman Robb called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Regent Milford moved and Regent Dyer seconded the minutes of the Board meeting of November 19, 1980, be approved as corrected.

Chairman Robb asked if there was anything that should come before the Board under New Business. President Porter said he would like to ask the Board to give him their general approval on two items; (1) No special honorary degree awards in January, but rather all awards would be done in April as originally scheduled. (2) There may be a problem with the date currently scheduled for the April Commencement. He said it is his understanding the date now scheduled may be a Jewish holiday, and if that is the case he would like permission of the Board to change the date so there would not be a conflict.

Regent Kinzel moved and Regent Rush seconded that the President be given the authority to defer any previously planned special honorary degree for awarding in January until the April Commencement. Also that the President be given the flexibility to change the scheduled Commencement date for April if it is deemed appropriate. The President should advise the Board as soon as that decision is made.

Motion carried.

.2332 M 1980-81 REVISED BUDGET

Regent Dyer moved and Regent Board seconded that the 1980-81 General Fund Budget be reduced from \$53,573,923 as approved on June 18, 1980, to \$50,939,231.

Regent Dyer indicated there had been much discussion on this subject. He said President Porter had provided the Board with a lot of information and he did not think the subject needed a lot of discussion at this time.

Regent Board said he thought it would be helpful in the future if the Board could have a further breakdown on a percentage basis, which would show the history of any given unit's percent of the total budget in previous years. This history could possibly be over a three or four year period of time.

Regent Bernard asked for a copy of the AAUP contract so she could become more familiar with specific contract language.

Motion carried.

.2333 M 1981-82 BUDGET REQUEST

Regent Dyer moved and Regent Bernard seconded the Board of Regents accept the 1981-1982 Budget Request.

Motion carried.

Regent Dyer moved and Regent Robb seconded that the report on the Urea-Formaldehyde Foam Insulation in Pine Grove Apartments be received and placed on file.

President Porter asked Dr. Suzanne Fleming to come forward and give the report on the Pine Grove Apartments. President Porter said Dr. Fleming had been chairing a special committee on the formaldehyde foam situation and they were working on a resolution to that problem. President Porter explained that there were 168 apartments at Pine Grove and that the occupants of seventy of those apartments had asked to be relocated to other university apartments. At this time, there are no prospective new tenants for those apartments which are or will become vacant as a result of the relocation. President Porter said this would point out the fact that there were very serious budget implications the University is confronted with as a result of this formaldehyde problem.

Dr. Fleming gave a status report to the Board in follow-up to the information provided in the agenda. She indicated she had talked to the Cleveland office of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. They indicated to her that they felt the University was doing all they could in this situation and were acting in a responsible manner. Dr. Fleming explained the testing procedures that had been followed and advised the Board members that Vice President Hawks

and Representative Owen had scheduled a meeting last Tuesday with officials of the State and County Health Departments. She said it was a very helpful meeting and there did not appear to be a great deal of concern expressed by either the county or state officials with the formaldehyde problem. But she said there was some concern expressed over the possibility that a carbon monoxide problem may exist as a result of more effective insulation. The state and the county are going to conduct further tests which will make a total of about twenty-five percent of all apartments that will have been tested for formaldehyde. She said the state is also going to provide the University with proper testing equipment and will instruct our staff in how to make the carbon monoxide tests in every one of the apartments. She said a very good working relationship existed with the county people who actually took the tests and the state people who analyze the tests; and there is a good feeling of cooperation and working together to try to resolve this situation.

Dr. Fleming completed her report by saying that the low level of formaldehyde found in one test could actually be coming from other sources since formaldehyde is used in permappress clothing, upholstery and other household products.

Motion carried.

.2334 M MINIMUM WAGE LAW

Regent Dyer moved and Regent Rush seconded that the student pay rates be increased, effective January 1, 1981, to comply with the federal minimum wage law -- as specified and applicable as follows:

<u>Classification/Pay Grade</u>	<u>Effective 1-1-1981</u>
Unskilled Jobs:	
Pay Grade #1	\$3.35
Pay Grade #2	3.45
Skilled Jobs:	
Pay Grade #3	3.60
Pay Grade #4	3.70
Classification C	
Special Skills:	
Pay Grade #5	\$3.71 -- 4.55

Motion carried.

Chairman Robb indicated that Regent Barnes had looked at his personal schedule for the 1981 calendar year, and because of his involvement in several organizations Regent Barnes is having a serious conflict with the scheduled Board meeting dates. They are scheduled for the third Wednesday of every month. He asked the Board if they would discuss the possibility of changing the meeting date for at least this one year.

After some discussion it was agreed that the next meeting of the Board of Regents would be on January 28, 1981, at 11:00 a.m. President Porter will check the University calendar to see if there would be any conflicts in continuing with this schedule of the fourth Wednesday of the month, rather than the third Wednesday, throughout the balance of the year. If he finds there are scheduling conflicts it is possible that the meeting might be held the third Wednesday of the month, but it would start earlier in the morning. President Porter will check and report back to the Board.

Chairman Robb said it was his understanding that the retreat would be held as previously scheduled and that those plans were firm now for the time and place, which is in Traverse City on February 19 - 22, 1981.

Regent Bernard said she would like to make a personal statement at this time as her term as a Board member is scheduled to expire at the end of this year. She said she had been appointed to the Board to replace Dr. Mildred Beatty Smith, and she has had the privilege of working on the Board and serving the people of the State of Michigan for three years. She thanked each Board member individually for their specific type of assistance they had provided to her over the three-year period. She also thanked President Porter, Vice President Hawks and others for all the assistance they had provided to her over the years. She said it had been one of the most enjoyable experiences she has ever had.

Chairman Robb said he personally won't assume that Regent Bernard will not be back on the Board, so he would defer any comments until such time as Governor Milliken might act one way or the other regarding the appointments. He said he is sure everyone has enjoyed working with Linda during this three-year period of time.

President Porter said he wanted to talk about the possibility of future tax initiatives. He said he is convinced that there will not be sufficient state general fund dollars for higher education over the next few years. There is going to have to be some property tax cuts. He said he felt we must have a tax increase and that the Presidents of Central Michigan University and Western Michigan University have joined with him to seek and push for a special tax increase that would be designated for higher education funding. President Porter continued that he felt it was imperative to come up with something to fund higher education in the 1980's.

Vice President Spatta reported that the Tisch people had filed a lawsuit against the Board of Regents of Eastern Michigan University and several other universities. She advised the Board that this lawsuit had been turned over to the law firm of Jackson, Lamb and Duerr and they are working on the University's and Board's behalf.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted;