

1974

## Board of Regents Meeting Materials, November 7, 1974

Eastern Michigan University

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Index for November 7, 1974 meeting of the Board of Regents

.1442 M Ernst and Ernst Audit Report

.1443 M Presidential Appointment - James H. Brickley

BOARD OF REGENTS  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Official Minutes of the meeting of November 7, 1974  
Regent's Room, McKenny Union

Members present:

Edward J. McCormick, Chairman; Veda S. Anderson, Timothy J. Dyer, Beth W. Milford, Richard N. Robb, Carleton K. Rush, Mildred Beatty Smith, and George E. Stripp

Administration present:

Interim President Ralph F. Gilden, Vice President James B. Campbell, Vice President Vincent J. Carillot, Vice President Gary D. Hawks, Vice President Bruce K. Nelson, and John Fountain, Director of Information Services

Chairman McCormick called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Chairman McCormick referred to a letter he had received from Vice President Nelson regarding the committee Interim President Gilden formulated for the purpose of formulating the missions and goals of Eastern Michigan University. In his letter, Vice President Nelson asked for a Board member to be appointed to the committee. After some discussion, Chairman McCormick appointed Regent Milford to this committee.

.1442 M - ERNST AND ERNST AUDIT REPORT

Regent Robb moved and Regent Dyer seconded that the audit report submitted by Ernst & Ernst be accepted.

Motion Carried.

.1443 M - PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT - JAMES H. BRICKLEY

Chairman McCormick asked Regent Anderson, Chairperson of the Presidential Selection Committee, if she was ready to give a report. She reported the following:

Mr. Chairman: I wish to submit my report as Chairperson of the Presidential Selection Committee:

The original search committee was composed of Regents Anderson (chairperson), Anspach and Dyer. Subsequently, Regent Anspach retired from the Board and it was deemed best that the entire Board serve as a committee of the whole.

This committee formulated the process by which selection would be made. It was determined that the screening phase would be conducted by the Board Committee. The basis for this decision, which was not popular with some segments of the University, particularly faculty representatives, was simply that it would be a waste of time and effort to submit candidates to the Review Committee which were totally unacceptable to the Board as the appointing authority.

So the screening process began. There were approximately 140 applications and recommendations. Some of which were submitted without approval of the candidate and subsequently withdrawn. As part of the screening process, faculty members who sponsored candidates were invited to appear personally before the committee to make presentations on the part of their candidates.

Simultaneously with the screening process, each segment of the University; students, administration, faculty, staff and alumni, were invited to propose three persons to serve on the Presidential Selection Review Committee. Representatives of the Faculty Senate vigorously dissented. Initially the thrust of this dissent was that the faculty should have more representatives on the committee because the faculty is the most important segment of the University.

The next issue of dissent was that the criteria set by the Board was unsatisfactory with the most emphasis placed on not requiring possession of a Ph.D. by candidates. The dissent also was directed at not being involved with screening all candidates.

Subsequently, the Faculty Senate regrettably determined not to participate in the selection process. Three faculty members were invited by President Gilden to serve; accepted, and served well.

The Screening Committee of the Board met several times and thoroughly reviewed all applications. Finally, arriving at a selection of twenty candidates to be seriously considered. These applications were referred to the Review Committee for recommendation, and back to the Board Committee. When this committee finished its review, the Board Committee reconvened and based on these recommendations, and its own deliberations, chose four candidates for personal interview.

Unfortunately, two declined, at least one of whom indicated that he was influenced not to pursue his candidacy because of communications he had received from faculty representatives.

The entire Board met with the Review Committee on Monday of this week to review the status of our selection process. There was substantial feeling that the whole process should be reopened. There was also strong sentiment for arriving at a selection.

The Board Committee reconvened on Tuesday of this week and after considerable deliberation and reconsideration of the many candidates' qualities determined that one candidate stood out as possessing those qualities the Board sought in a new President, which position would hold regardless of how long the process was extended.

A person experienced in administration. A person who could objectively assess the problems faced by education today. A person who could bring the University together in a new and fresh approach to our ultimate goals. That person is James H. Brickley.

The Selection Committee, therefore, recommends that Mr. Brickley be appointed the President of Eastern Michigan University.

I move, therefore, that the Board appoint James H. Brickley as President of Eastern Michigan University.

The second for the above motion was made by Regent Smith as follows:

Mr. Chairman: I deem it an honor to second this nomination. We are fortunate to have a man of James Brickley's stature and accomplishments available to us. He brings with him a reputation for the highest integrity as well as ability. I am confident that under his able leadership, Eastern Michigan University will move to the forefront of the Educational Society.

Chairman McCormick commented that he has had a great deal of strain in his own mind about proceeding with a choice at this time. He felt there is no reason for haste, although this is a matter of opinion. He felt there is a lot to be said for proceeding at this time, but there is nothing to be lost for not proceeding at this time. In his opinion, he felt there is no important issue or appointment necessary at this time and Dean Gilden is doing a fabulously stimulating job. "The foolish tactics of some people discouraging people from coming to this campus would not discourage people of merit who would in the long run find this kind of tactic unacceptable. The majority of the Board wants to proceed. I've never had an opportunity to talk with or know Mr. Brickley. When he was here several weeks ago I was impressed with his integrity." The Chairman said there has been some talk of Mr. Brickley not having the doctorate; he recalled that Dr. John Hannah at Michigan State University did not have a Ph.D., the President of the United States and later head of Columbia University, Mr. Eisenhower, did not have a Ph.D. Possibly in some areas of this University a Ph.D. is a necessity, but not for the presidency.

Chairman McCormick further commented that he was not sure that Mr. Brickley's appointment will benefit our relations in Lansing. Eastern Michigan University will succeed in Lansing depending on how the University is doing. "It is bigger than us or any president we would name. I am against hasty decisions, but there is not going to be any president coming to this university who I wouldn't support, I will vote for the appointment of Mr. Brickley."

Regent Dyer commented that the most important ingredient of a president is his ability to lead and proven leadership qualities. Mr. Brickley has proven his abilities to do that. He has distinguished himself as assistant prosecuting attorney and as lieutenant governor, he has demonstrated his outstanding leadership ability. I am voting for him for his personal qualities -- integrity, openness, honesty. He is a proven, devoted worker with a keen mind. He can lead people with diverse opinions at diverse times.

Regent Dyer further commented that the contention by members of the faculty that a Ph.D. is necessary for a college president is silly and poppycock of the highest proportion. He noted that this statement was coming from someone who holds such a degree. Regent Dyer said, "As controversial as this appointment might be now, the critics in a year or so will say it was wise."

Regent Milford noted that first of all she wanted to thank Ralph Gilden for the outstanding job he has been doing. However, she felt some of the problems of the University are probably a lack of permanent authority. She definitely approves the appointment of Mr. Brickley. He is accepted by the black community and the chicano community. He is able to work with all kinds of people and also able to cut across partisan lines.

The question was called for.

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman McCormick announced a press conference at the President's House immediately following this meeting where President Brickley is waiting.

Chairman McCormick suggested that a resolution of appreciation be prepared thanking Ralph Gilden, and his lovely wife, for the fabulously stimulating job he has done for this University, serving as Interim President.

The Chairman suggested that the Finance Committee meet with President Brickley and make arrangements for financial remuneration.

Regent Smith noted that the Finance and Educational Policies Committees will meet very soon and would like the new President to attend.

Chairman McCormick announced that the next meeting of the Board of Regents will be December 11, 1974.

Regent Dyer made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Regent Smith.

Meeting adjourned at 3:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted