

Schoolcraft hikes tuition, caps non-resident students

By TIM RICHARD

With the Student Senate acquiescing, the Schoolcraft College board voted 7-1 to raise tuition and to take the first step toward placing a "cap" on non-resident student enrollment.

Trustee Hosina Raymond dissented on the tuition increase. Trustee Mark McQuenon dissented on the non-resident issue. Board members applauded when Student Senate President Jeff Stabenau announced at the opening of the Jan. 28 board meeting that the 18-member student group saw no alternative to the administration's proposed tuition increase.

The student leader also asked trustees to place a 0.5 mill property tax increase for operations on the ballot. There has been open talk in Schoolcraft circles of placing a tax hike on the June 1 ballot, but it hasn't come formally before the board.

In return, Stabenau asked for a board and administration commitment to help students form a coalition of community college student governments in order to lobby with legislators.

TUITION WILL rise with the spring semester at the end of April, and will be \$41,000 this fiscal year. In 1977 the additional revenue will be worth nearly \$40,000.

For residents of the Schoolcraft College district, the price will go up \$2 to \$10 per credit hour. For out-of-district Michigan residents, the price will rise \$4 to \$28 an hour. For two Michiganders tuition will be up \$4 to \$28.

Full-time students carry 15 to 18 hours per semester. Thus a resident carrying 15 hours will pay \$195 a semester instead of \$145.

President C. Nelson Grote and Schoolcraft is one of the few community colleges in the state that has not increased tuition recently. A tuition increase will help strengthen the community college's case for additional state appropriations, he said.

In addition, should we place a millage question before the voters, we will be in a more defensible position if they know we have passed on some of the increased costs directly to the students, Grote said.

"I SHOOK MY head when I heard the speaker from the Student Senate say they went along with this," said Mrs. Raymond as she announced her negative vote.

wonder how many of the 8,000 students they represent.

She cited a 13 per cent unemployment rate, a rising rate of delinquency in student loans and some funds left in a working capital account as her reasons for opposing a permanent tuition increase. But she said she would have backed a temporary "surcharge."

"I don't know if the Student Senate speaks for the students," shot back trustee Arch Vallier, who was at odds with Mrs. Raymond all evening, "but I doubt if you speak for the students. We are in a drab financial shape."

Trustee Gerald Cox, who teaches in Detroit, said "I don't know of any pockets of poverty" in the college district.

Trustee Mark McQuenon, who hinted two weeks ago he would prefer a temporary surcharge, went along with the tuition increase but he criticized state action in manipulating the community college appropriation formula to practically force a tuition increase.

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Students protest class waiting lists

Even as the Schoolcraft College board was liberalizing its policy on student records, it found itself under pressure to reveal details of its long waiting lists for entry into certain programs—initially nursing.

Administration policy is to tell a student where he is on a waiting list but not the names of others on the list. The discussion at last week's board meeting was triggered by student complaints that the lists were altered—specifically, that a student found himself lower on the nursing program waiting list one day than he had at an earlier date.

"THERE'S NOTHING confidential," said trustee Arch Vallier. "There's no document in her (Admissions Director Barbara Gell) office except grades that's not public information."

College President C. Nelson Grote wasn't so sure that was true but promised to check.

A Livonia mother who entered Schoolcraft in her 30s objected that students were being placed on the waiting list for the nursing program as early as the 10th grade. She called the policy unfair to prospective older students.

Administrators replied that parents think it would be unfair for their children to have to wait as much as three years after graduating from high school to enter

TO CAP enrollment, the college will indicate the specific dates and times when non-residents will be eligible to register for classes according to the newly adopted board policy.

Thus, preference will be given in limited programs to resident students. The policy took effect Jan. 29 and has no effect on non-residents already enrolled at Schoolcraft or on waiting lists.

It means non-residents will be accepted on a space available basis. Other steps could be taken later, Grote said.

McQuenon, the only trustee who has attended Schoolcraft, saw grave implications to limiting non-residents. "My real concern is that in the past we haven't been sectionalist. We should attempt to maintain a good balance between residents and non-residents."

"We have a responsibility to non-residents because we do get funds from the state. But it's not just a question of money, it's a question of the quality of education. (Capping) limits input from different socio-economic groups and different races."

Other trustees, however, argued that although the state had passed enabling legislation to create the college district, local voters were putting up the bulk of the money.

"We have to explain this to the residents," said Vallier.

the program. They added students on waiting lists can often take other required courses—basic biology or math—while waiting for admission to the specialized program.

WHAT PROMPTED the debate on waiting lists was a new policy which the board passed without dissent—the policy on confidentiality of student records.

It was necessitated by the new Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

The new policy allows "present and former students" to "inspect, review and challenge the contents of their official records" according to provisions of the privacy act.

It continues the policy of keeping confidential records of students unless the student gives written authorization or there is a court order calling for a record.

Information that is considered to be public includes whether a person is enrolled at the college, dates of enrollment, degrees earned and the dates they were earned.

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Farmington Observer & Eccentric
Published every Monday and Thursday by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 30251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150. Second-class postage paid at Livonia, Michigan 48151. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, Michigan 48151. Telephone 381-3888.
Co-Publishers: Henry M. Hogan, Jr. and Philip H. Power.
HOME DELIVERY SERVICE: Newsstand per copy 25c; Carrier monthly \$1.00.

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