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# 'Grote Grippe' cured as trustees get tough

By TIM RICHARD

The "Grote Grippe" was suddenly cured late last week as Schoolcraft College trustees extended the faculty contract a week and the board of trustees decided to get tough with instructors who take days off on leave.

The contract covering some 180 full time and about as many part-time instructors was extended to Sept. 30 and signs that bargaining progress was being made. The extension came at 1 a.m. Sept. 23, an hour after it was to have expired.

The "Grote Grippe," a reference to college President Nelson Grote, is the nickname given to the Faculty Forum's tactic of having 30 or more members call in sick or take off personal business days each day.

Virtually the entire campus was shut down Tuesday, the first day of the delirious. About 30 instructors were absent Wednesday as a Forum-organized schedule.

But Wednesday night, an angry board of trustees voted \$4 to require "proof of illness" when instructors take off sick days.

By Thursday, faculty absenteeism was down to two.

Through an internal communications system, faculty members were told that "Plan B"—apparently a code word for the organized absenteeism—had been called off Thursday for the present time.

The Forum claimed 86 per cent member "participation" in "our effort" Tuesday. The Forum said it would publish the names of eight instructors who were "administrative supporters" but declined to say what formal or informal punishment would be meted out.

Of the whole episode, Forum President Richard Arden said, "We can't drive. We gotta get their (the board's) attention some way."

THE BOARD resolution requiring proof of illness charged instructors with "abuse or misrepresentation" of sick and personal leave days.

The carefully worded statement said past faculty behavior had been "professional," implying but not stating that current behavior is unprofessional.

But if the board as a group was choosing words carefully, Trustee Mark McQueen was "damned" and "not stating that current behavior is unprofessional."

McQueen, the only Schoolcraft graduate on the board and previously a champion of faculty causes, branded "the events of the last couple of days very destructive... making life on campus more difficult for students. I would like to see the faculty use knowledge to help fix, sick leaves, business days... It's not a professional way. It shows contempt of students."

WITHOUT TAKING sides, the Student Senate expressed "great concern (over)" the apparent lack of progress now being made in faculty contract negotiations.

Board Chairman Paul Kaden said students deserve to be recognized as "a third side" in negotiations.

Trustee Arch Valdez turned to the student audience and said, "The college is open. If teachers don't want to teach, there's not a darn thing we can do about it."

The small audience packed the board's meeting room in the administration to overflowing. It was composed mostly of students. In contrast to a Sept. 8 meeting when Faculty Forum leaders brought in just enough sign-carrying instructors to fill every seat in the room.

GERALD MUNRO, chief of the college's negotiating team, said these board proposals are resolved.

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guage, department representatives and student evaluation.

Unresolved are these board proposals: Details of incorporating part-time faculty into the bargaining agreement; revisions of certain job descriptions; length of a new contract and economics.

A faculty source said the college was offering about one per cent and the Forum asking nine per cent. Compromise is expected.

Heure said this package of Forum proposals is unresolved but may be close to settlement: Budget priorities; restriction of full time faculty to one off-campus class; department representatives; life insurance; evaluation of administrators; expansion of faculty grant fund; increased travel allowance; reimbursements for graduate college courses; extension of the contract to apply all conditions for the entire year; providing one office and a secretary in each classroom building open to the evening; allowing faculty to decide the severity of weather conditions if they decide to stay home without loss of pay, sick days or personal business days; and removal of a "board rights clause."

Other unresolved Forum proposals are provisions for part-time faculty, economics and length of the agreement.

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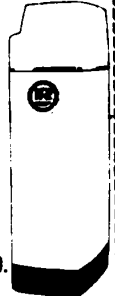
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