

Government body revamped

Student apathy causes college reevaluation

By TIM RICHARD

An ad hoc committee of Schoolcraft College students and administrators is studying ways to rebuild student government at the two-year college—and, indeed, whether a traditional student government is even necessary.

The beginning of the end was October of 1977 when nine of Schoolcraft's 8,300 students went to the polls. The turnout rate, in case you're slow at math, was about one-tenth of one per cent.

Only three of 10 possible student senate seats were filled. As Vice-president for student affairs Edward V. McNally summed it up:

"Their inability to prepare an adequate timely budget, to develop on-

campus programs for students, to meet on a regular basis, to maintain harmony within ranks, and to identify students for appointment to standing committees points to the fact that it is time to consider a change."

WITH THAT, on July 14 McNally withdrew college recognition of the student senate.

Simultaneously, he instructed Patrick M. Newman, counselor for student affairs, to pull together active students from clubs and consider what, if anything, to install in the senate's place. Target date is Jan. 1.

Ann Vinnes, of Northville, president of what was left of the student government, protested to the board of trustees about "lack of due process." But McNally's past memos of warnings apparently convinced the board his action was neither reactionary nor hasty.

What happened at Schoolcraft isn't unusual. Nationwide, student governments are in a doldrums. The Vietnam war is no longer an issue. At Schoolcraft, 66 per cent of the students are in career curricula whereas student politicians typically come from the liberal arts area.

Administrators note, too, a return to the thinking of the 1980s, when students identified with the profession they aspired to, thinking of themselves as future engineers and or future lawyers, rather than as professional students as a distinct social class.

"I FIRMLY believe these should be something," McNally says said in an interview. "I am open to any suggestion."

Why student government?

McNally pointed to some practical needs for student input in running the college. Many quasi-judicial decisions and policy suggestions come out of committees composed of administrators, faculty and students. Examples:

- Two students are among six members of the academic probation and dismissal committee. Among other things, this committee is an appeals body for flunked students.

- Two students are among 10 members of the alcoholic beverages committee, which makes rules for the use of wine and beer at campus functions.

- Two students are among 10 members of the building committee, which makes proposals for land use and construction.

The student government is seen as the best way to process applications and appoint students to those committees.

McNally even suggests consideration of reversing the process: Instead of electing a student government to appoint committee members, why not elect committee members directly?

MISS VINNES, however, had a more political idea of how student government should function. Her

approach was inherited from her 1976 predecessor, Jeff Stabenau, a student of strong political instincts.

Lobbying was given a high priority. Long-distance telephone calls to Lansing and Washington were a major activity, senate records showed.

A \$5,000 budget submitted to McNally by Miss Vinnes contained \$2,800 for field trips, conferences and membership in national lobbying organizations. It prompted McNally to question what the senate was doing for the students on campus.

Other major activities Miss Vinnes cited were politically oriented—on-campus voter registration drives and candidate debates.

Stabenau, in his tenure, also renewed a request, not heard on campus since the Vietnam days, of

having a student lobbyist, called an "advisor," sit with the board of trustees.

STABENAU'S IMPRINT is evident on the late student government constitution.

Lobbying is expressly defined as a duty of the student senate. Passing resolutions "on issues of the day" to send to "the college, state or nation" is another duty.

"Jeff's constitution," as it is sometimes called on campus, was adopted in 1976 by a 58-20 vote of the student body. That was nearly a one per cent turnout.

Organizationally, the constitution followed fairly conventional lines. All Schoolcraft students were declared

part of a student association whose governing board was the senate.

The senate was composed of 10 senators and four administrative officers—president, secretary, vice-president for campus affairs and comptroller. The administrators were not-voting members of the senate.

The ad hoc committee studying a new form of student government consists of counselor Newman and representatives of Phi Theta Kappa (honor society), members of the old senate, Ski Club (highly active), Sigma Beta (older students) and other interested students.

Other possible participants in the future are representatives of the Christian Fellowship, Gourmet Club, Campus Globe (student newspaper) and Amateur Radio Club.

MD assistants review class offered by SC

A new in-service training program for medical doctor assistants is scheduled from Sept. 16 through May 19, 1979 at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Hagerly, Livonia.

The program is sponsored by Schoolcraft College and the Western Wayne County Medical Assistant Society in cooperation with the American Association of Medical Assistants, State of Michigan.

Sixteen individual courses are scheduled to meet one Saturday each month with morning and afternoon instructional programs.

These programs are designed for the working medical assistant as preparation for taking the certified medical assistant (CMA) examination. It is not preparatory training, but is intended as a review for persons already in the field.

The program has been approved by the American Association of Medical Assistants and 0.6 continuing education units will be awarded upon completion of each session.

Topics to be offered include: study techniques and perspectives, patient preparation, oral and written commu-

nication, injections and emergencies, medical law and ethics, medical terminology (structure), office procedures, medical terminology and anatomy and physiology, bookkeeping, human relations, personal development, laboratory procedures, the body and disease, and pharmacology.

Sessions meet from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 5 p.m. in the Forum Building Theater. Information and registration materials may be obtained by calling the Schoolcraft College continuing education office at 581-6600, ext. 404.

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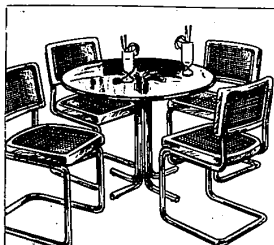
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