

Compromise will open interviews for college administrative jobs

By TIM RICHARD
Schoolcraft College trustees are reserving the chance to interview finalists for top administrative posts, despite warnings that public interviews may scare off some good candidates.

A revised hiring rule gives trustees the right to request public interviews of candidates for vice-presidential openings.

Sunset options to be debated

When the State Senate returns from spring recess April 24, it will begin to debate the sunset law bill, as amended by State Sen. Doug Ross (D-Oak Park).

Ten amendments introduced by Ross were adopted by a five member senate committee studying legislation designed to reduce the state bureaucracy.

It passed committee Tuesday. All of Doug's amendments were adopted," said the Ross aide Lou Glazer.

The bill will provide the legislature with a standard evaluation process to review all state programs, departments, bureaus and agencies and cut those found to be ineffective.

One of Ross's proposals that Glazer said might be challenged on the senate floor is the 60 day provision. It requires the evaluation committee to report to the full legislature within 60 days. Ross said the limit would insure the legislature to debate the changes recommended by the committee.

"The floor can vote yes or no, or amend it further," Glazer said. "Once it's passed by the Senate, it goes into House committee."

Supporting Ross's amendments were Senate Chairman William Faust and committee members Ed Pierce, Dave Plawewski, Robert VanderLaan and John Mowag.

The rule is of major importance. President C. Nelson Grote wants to hire a provost (head of day-to-day operations) this year. Fred Steafanski, vice-president for instruction, is due to retire in 1980. Kenneth Lindner, vice-president for business, is nearing retirement.

Grote sought — but failed to get — a rule change whereby "the papers of the candidate selected by the president will be sent to the board of trustees for their information."

CLARIFICATION of the rule was required under the new state Open Meetings Act. The previous rule allowed the board to interview finalists, but under the old law it could be done in a closed-door, secret meeting.

Trustees debated the issue two hours at their April 4 meeting before deciding on a compromise allowing two of them to ask to interview finalists.

"It's a high-paying job," said trustee Rosina Raymond. "I would like to know the philosophy of the candidate."

Vice-chairperson Harry Greenleaf had "mixed emotions" because, one hand, "they're officers of the college, proposed by the president and elected by the board of trustees"; on the other, many private and public corporations interview candidates in confidence.

Greenleaf finally opted for openness. Chairperson Paul Kadish said,

"People's jobs in other institutions may be put in jeopardy (by open interviews). We have to put our college in a position where we can recruit." But Kadish also voted for openness.

Trustee Nancie Blatt put it bluntly: "People who work in the public sector have to get used to being interviewed in the public sector."

OPPOSING OPEN interviews were trustees Leonard Wozniak and Richard Hayward.

Said Wozniak: "We're limiting our choices. The interviewing and recruiting process needs to be handled in strictest confidence. We'd discourage superior candidates and encourage inferior ones who are about to be fired" by open interviews.

Hayward said that interviewing a candidate for a vice-presidency in public wasn't the same as interviewing candidates for appointment to the board in public. "When we were interviewed for this board," he said, "no one had a financial stake (trustees are not paid). This is our avocation, not our vocation."

They were answered by trustees Mark McQuesten and Mrs. Raymond.

Survey stirs objections

By MARY GNIEWEK

If you're a registered voter older than 55 and live in Farmington Hills, you may be among 2,000 residents who received a detailed questionnaire from the city that asks for information like monthly housing costs and personal income.

"I don't want to get involved in an article that smacks of 1984, 'Big Brother' is not the intent" of this survey," said city aide Mike Dorman, who helped United Community Service director Bill Doub draw up the senior citizen housing survey.

One individual contacted the Farmington Observer last week objecting not only to some of the questions, but to the cover letter that accompanies the 25-question form:

"It instructed residents not to put their names or addresses on the questionnaire so the responses would be anonymous and confidential," said the man who wished to remain anonymous.

"Yet, the precinct number and household number that identifies who we are appear at the top of the questionnaire," he said. "We didn't answer the questionnaire. But if it were anonymous, we would have been happy to answer it."

Dorman said he has gotten three or four calls at city hall from others selected for the random survey who objected to it.

"If they don't want to answer it, that's their prerogative," he said.

"THE PURPOSE (of the survey) is to find out the living conditions and housing needs of senior citizens in this community," said Doub, who conducted six surveys in townships throughout the county.

"We need the precinct and house numbers for purposes of statistical control. This eliminates the bias of drawing names from a housing waiting list or a mailing list. We distributed the questionnaire evenly throughout the city."

Doub insisted the information would remain confidential.

"The city cannot release those names," he said. "All responses are kept under lock and key. The information is relayed to us from groups of persons, not individuals. I'm strong on the issue of confidentiality."

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